

# **GYM MARKET PERSPECTIVE**

CONFIDENTIAL

Winter 2017

NB Group ("NBG") is an entrepreneurial private equity firm focused on growing small and medium sized Consumer & Retail businesses in North America

# NBG offers a unique entrepreneurial approach to private equity

- Business Partners: Our principals have a mix of operational, investing, and consulting experience with both small and large companies. We draw on this experience to add value to our companies, but do *not* involve ourselves in day-to-day operations.
- Limited Portfolio: unlike larger firms with a dozen or more investments, we are intentionally keeping our portfolio small so that we can focus on adding value to each of our companies.
- Small Team: many firms have large teams with layers of analysts, VPs, and Partners. Our team is small, enabling quick decisions and ensuring that you are only dealing with decision makers.
- Customized Transactions: we work patiently to customize a transaction to fit your objectives as a manager/owner, whether it is exiting the business or partnering for future growth. We don't have a fixed structure for investments.
- Industry Knowledge: we have deep investment and operating experience in the Telecom & Technology space that we can use to accelerate the businesses we invest in.
- **Growth Focus:** unlike many private equity firms that try to make money through financial engineering or cost cutting, we aim to generate most of our investment returns through business growth.



# NBG Core Team: mix of investing, consulting, and company building

# **NEEL BHARGAVA** | Partner

## Founder, NB Advisory

Corporate development for high-growth companies

## **Private Equity, Berkshire Partners**

Top quartile firm with retail/consumer focus

## **Board Observer, Party City**

\$1.5 billion retail company, pre-IPO

#### **Rocket Internet**

Launched largest active venture in India

#### Consultant, Bain & Co.

Focus on private equity diligence

#### **Education**

MBA, Harvard Business School BBA, University of Michigan

# **ARIEZ DUSTOOR** | Partner

#### Co-Founder, Scout Finance

Venture capital-backed software company, acquired 2017

### **Private Equity, Audax Group**

Top middle market firm specializing in add-on acquisition strategies

## **Corporate Development, Yahoo!**

M&A and investments globally

#### **Rocket Internet**

Global technology holding company

### **Consultant, McKinsey & Company**

Strategy, operational efficiency, and M&A

#### **Education**

BA, University of Michigan, Phi Beta Kappa

# Berkshire Partners



McKinsey & Company













# There is a compelling opportunity to invest in the low cost gym space and build an industry-leading company

After extensive research and analysis of Fitness space, have concluded that gyms are an attractive and underappreciated long-term investment

Gyms are a stable cash flow generating asset with high return on capital and reasonable valuations

Structural changes in industry are leading to shift toward low-cost formats. Planet Fitness is major winner so far in this segment, but no clear #2 yet. Planet's format limits its appeal

Industry still remains highly fragmented with varying levels of performance: ability to consolidate and drive operational improvement

Opportunity to partner with a great operator with an existing footprint to create a large scale #2 low cost player in the next 5 years

# Focus on gyms is a result of a thematic investment approach centered on health and wellness

Health & Wellness is one of the major economic themes of next 20 years – and a personal passion.

We started a deep dive into macro and micro trends in Health & Wellness space earlier this year to identify most attractive areas for investment.

# **Key Evaluation Criteria**

#### **BUSINESS MODEL**

- High margin, recurring revenue
- Attractive payback period
- Limited obsolescence/fad risk
- Strong downside protection

#### **INDUSTRY**

- Growing market with long-term macro tailwinds
- Low cyclicality
- Opportunity for value addition in strategy, finance, operations
- Fragmented market

#### TRANSACTION

- Reasonable acquisition multiples
- Attractive debt financing if appropriate
- Availability of deals to grow platform through M&A

Looked at several categories including Healthy Fast Casual, Massage, Boutique Fitness, Gyms

Narrowed scope to brick-and-mortar fitness industry

# In-depth research conducted over the past four months

# Extensive secondary research,

including review of SEC filings, buy side research, industry white papers, trade publications, and franchise disclosure documents

**One-on-one interviews** with over 30 owner-operators, investors active in the space, and franchisors

**Visits** to industry tradeshows, franchise discovery days, and multiple gym concepts

**Proprietary data analysis** (e.g. analysis of Yelp review trends)

Discussions with the **top intermediaries** in the space

## **Research Output**

Financial modeling of various concepts, investment strategies, and upside/downside scenarios

Development a proprietary database of investment targets

Comparative analysis of clublevel P&Ls and operating metrics

Diligence on seven potential investments to date (ongoing)

#### **Conclusions**

Low-cost segment of market will account for majority of new growth & gain share

Market trends + financial profile = attractive investment strategy to acquire gyms

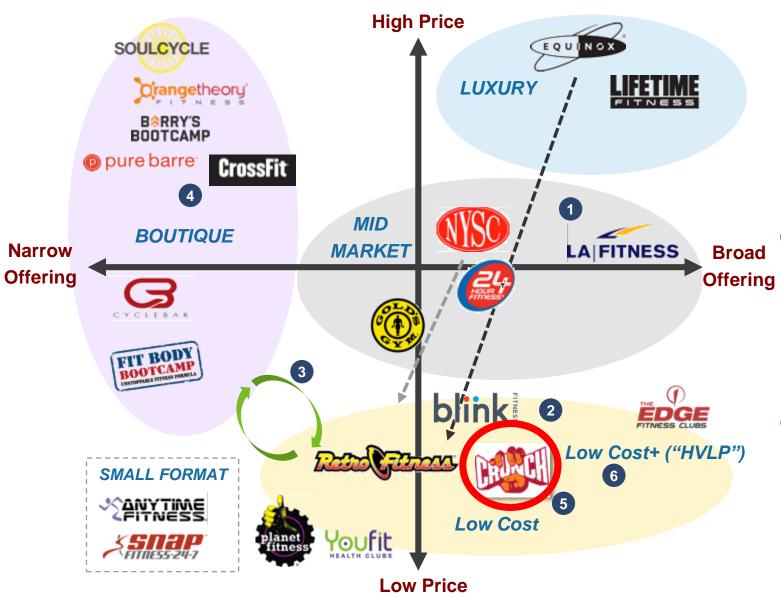
Goal: identify an attractive platform acquisition to enter the industry

# The "high value, low price" ("HVLP") gym industry represents an attractive investment area

### **Description Industry Characteristics** Majority of revenue is recurring and auto-drafted from customer bank High margin with recurring cash accounts flow generation Mature 25k square foot box can generate \$350-700k+ annual free cash flow 25-35% cash-on-cash returns on new builds when built properly **Attractive ROIC** Positive macro trends lead to long Massive growth in consumer awareness around health and wellness runway for growth Very low penetration (80% of Americans have never belonged to gym) Stable, growing industry with low 5.2% market revenue growth 2000-13 (CAGR), steady during recession cyclicality Potential to gain share during economic downturns Highly fragmented industry ripe Significant fragmentation, top 13 gym chains account for <25% of for consolidation locations Attractive acquisition multiples, Multiples typically range between 4 to 8x EBITDA, increasing with scale debt financing, and multiple Many local operators underperforming due to lack of club management arbitrage opportunities skills, underperformers can be turned around quickly

Source: NBG analysis

# Gym industry moving toward low-cost formats

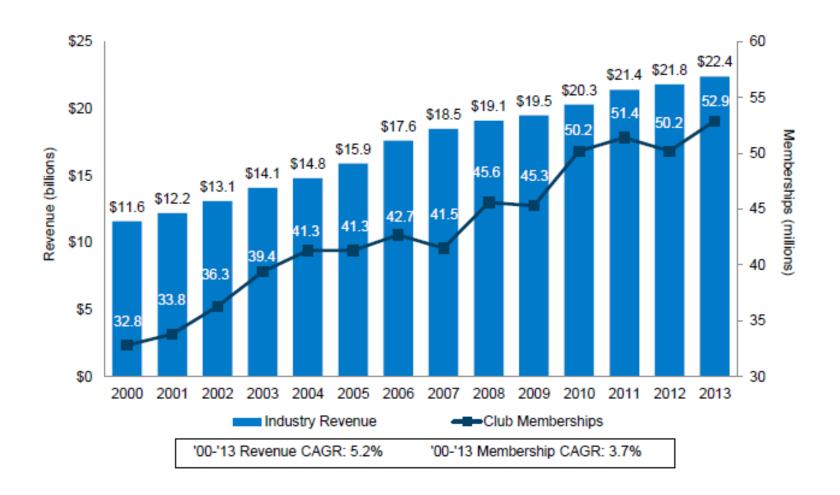


#### **Key Themes**

- Mid-market format increasingly challenged, getting squeezed from all sides
- Market is converging on the low cost segment
  - Town Sports attempt and pull back converting clubs to HVLP
  - Equinox launched Blink in 2011
  - Crunch operates flagship corporate clubs in NYC, HVLP franchised clubs elsewhere
- Boutique segment gaining share, but is more a complement than substitute for gyms, particularly low cost gyms. 90% of studio members also belong to a gym (IHRSA).
  - Staying power of boutique concepts remains to be seen, some are fads.
- 5 Low cost segment, brought to scale by Planet Fitness (~1100 clubs), represents the most resilient and attractive format today
  - 6 Emerging sub-segment of "high value low price" w/ \$10 entry point + added fees for additional services



Fitness industry has grown members, revenue, and average revenue per user ("ARPU") for 15 years, low cyclicality



# Gym membership is large and growing, but still only ~20% of US population has a membership

Health & Fitness Industry: United States														
	In Millions	Revenue	Y/Y % Change	Members	Y/Y % Change	Gyms	Y/Y % Change	Member per Gym	Y/Y % Change	Population (14 & Older)	Y/Y % Change	Members as % of Population	Revenue per Member	Y/Y % Change
1	2000	\$11,600	na	32.8	na	na	na	na	na	225.9	na	14.5%	\$354	na
2	2001	\$12,200	5.2%	33.8	3.0%	na	na	na	na	228.6	1.2%	14.8%	\$361	2.1%
3	2002	\$13,100	7.4%	36.3	7.4%	na	na	na	na	231.2	1.1%	15.7%	\$361	(0.0%)
4	2003	\$14,100	7.6%	39.4	8.5%	na	na	na	na	233.7	1.1%	16.9%	\$358	(0.8%)
5	2004	\$14,800	5.0%	41.3	4.8%	na	na	na	na	236.6	1.2%	17.5%	\$358	0.1%
6	2005	\$15,900	7.4%	41.3	0.0%	na	na	na	na	239.4	1.2%	17.3%	\$385	7.4%
7	2006	\$17,600	10.7%	42.7	3.4%	na	na	na	na	242.2	1.2%	17.6%	\$412	7.1%
8	2007	\$18,500	5.1%	46.7	9.4%	na	na	na	na	244.8	1.1%	19.1%	\$396	(3.9%)
9	2008	\$19,100	3.2%	45.5	(2.6%)	30,022	na	1,516	na	247.4	1.1%	18.4%	\$420	6.0%
10	2009	\$19,500	2.1%	45.4	(0.2%)	29,750	(0.9%)	1,526	0.7%	249.9	1.0%	18.2%	\$430	2.3%
11	2010	\$20,300	4.1%	50.1	10.4%	29,890	0.5%	1,676	9.8%	252.3	1.0%	19.9%	\$405	(5.7%)
12	2011	\$21,400	5.4%	51.4	2.6%	29,960	0.2%	1,716	2.4%	254.5	0.9%	20.2%	\$416	2.8%
13	2012	\$21,800	1.9%	50.2	(2.3%)	30,500	1.8%	1,646	(4.1%)	256.9	0.9%	19.5%	\$434	4.3%
14	2013	\$22,400	2.8%	52.9	5.4%	32,150	5.4%	1,645	(0.0%)	259.2	0.9%	20.4%	\$423	(2.5%)
15	2014	\$24,200	8.0%	54.0	2.1%	34,460	7.2%	1,567	(4.8%)	261.5	0.9%	20.6%	\$448	5.8%
	5-Year CAGR		4.4%		3.6%		3.0%							1.5%

Low cost format offers most attractive entry point for first time gym-goers

# Gym sector has challenges, but they can be mitigated

Organic growth levers are limited as membership reaches maturity in year 3-4

Low switching costs and limited differentiation challenge defensibility

Consumer preferences are always evolving, leading to various formats going in and out of favor

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## Our view and mitigants

- ARPU growth via ancillary fees, mix shift, and retail/ merchandise can deliver low single digit annual growth
- Planet Fitness increased "Black Card" membership from 38% to 55% of members between 2010-2014
- Customer churn is intrinsic to industry, but can be managed through strong club-level management, marketing, and not skimping on maintenance capex
- "You've got to maintain the place, but it doesn't take much keep the paint fresh, add a few new pieces of equipment every 6 months" – Retro fitness franchisee
- The basic gym format has been around for decades and consumer tastes can be accommodated by supplementing core offering (e.g. introducing functional training area, new classes)
- Keeping systems relatively small allows you to be nimble
- While specialty concepts like Zumba or Curves go in and out of favor, gyms have grown at remarkably consistent rate for 20 years



# Get in touch

# **Contact information**

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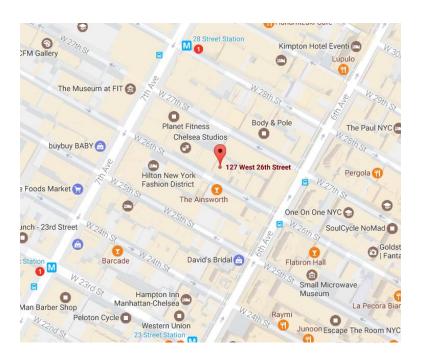
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