FINANCIAL REVIEW

— Street Talk

StarRez windfall puts Knipe on the Rich List radar

Sarah Thompson, Kanika Sood and Emma Rapaport

Jun 17, 2026 – 11.45am

Is StarRez executive Travis Knipe a shoo-in for next year's Rich List?

The businessman and entrepreneur quietly offloaded his stake in the student accommodation software group to Five Arrows, the private equity arm backed by Rothschild, in January. Market sources have put the deal value north of $US1 billion ($1.4 billion) – and Knipe's pocketed a goodly portion of that amount. Five Arrows now sits alongside Vista Equity Partners on the register.

Travis Knipe is one of the new owners of NBL basketball club, Melbourne United **Photograph by Chris Hopkins**

Knipe has not wasted much time putting some of the proceeds to work, picking up a 75 per cent stake in NBL franchise Melbourne United in recent weeks, with plans to accelerate the club's success on and off the court.

He was supported on both transactions by Arnold Bloch Leibler's Jeremy Leibler, previously named by this column as one of the country's top private equity dealmakers, and senior associate Ari Bendet. The latter was lured from Allens almost five years ago, and has just been named one of four new partners at ABL, taking the firm's partnership to 50. This is exactly double where it stood a decade ago.

Of note, Leibler and Bendet have been aggressively growing the firm's sponsor-side practice, with clients ranging from BGH Capital at the top end of town to mid-market players including Five V, Anacacia Capital and Alceon.

Knipe, who served as chief executive of StarRez since 2005, was named executive chair following the Five Arrows deal. He built on the legacy of his father, the late Alan Knipe, who founded the software company in 1992. Vista first invested in StarRez in 2022.