

Morrison jump-starts offense as Rangers post lopsided win

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Rincon/University post player Billy Morrison is not used to getting all the glory when it comes to scoring points.

His teammate, guard Juan Pablo Favela, is usually the one filling up the Rangers' stat sheet with baskets.

That was not the case on Thursday night against visiting Nogales (7-9).

Morrison plugged away under the hoop, finishing with 30 points as Rincon (11-6) ran away to a 63-35 win.

"It was a good game for everybody," Morrison said. "Juan Pablo is our main guy, and he had a good night of distributing, and he did what he needed to do to help us get the win."

Favela finished with 13 — after scoring just three points in the first half. The senior, who moved to Tucson from Mexico before last season, was bothered by a nagging leg injury. He added his concentration was lacking at the start.

But "the team is very good, even if I'm not that concentrated," Favela said through a translator. "They play well as a group, and even if I'm not doing well, they play really well without me."

Rincon led by two after the first quarter, but held Nogales to eight points in the second to take a 25-17 lead into halftime.

Rincon coach Rich Utter said he was more pleased with his defense than any other aspect of the game.

"We started slow but our defense was still fairly solid, so even though we didn't score a lot of points in the first half, (Nogales) scored less," Utter said. "That's obviously the object of the game."

"Our defense kept us going when our offense was really sputtering." Offense was the story in the third quarter when the teams combined

for 36 points. It also was Morrison's most productive quarter as well. He scored 10 to bring his total to 24 entering the fourth.

The 6-foot-5-inch junior said he had a feeling before the game that he might get a lot of looks down low.

"We had seen that they're not the tallest team in the (area)," Morrison said. "We wanted to have an all-around good game inside and out." Rincon ran away in the fourth, outscoring the Apaches 18-2 to close out the game.

Morrison, who also recorded 19 rebounds, capped his night by converting an alley-oop layup from teammate Nick Mata, which extended Rincon's lead to 22.

"He really plays hard, so we have to keep him on the floor a lot, because even when he misses, he makes things happen," Utter said of Morrison.