

The Ranger Gameday

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Last Meeting - February 21, 2009: Ironwood Ridge 67 Rincon/University 44

**IRONWOOD RIDGE NIGHTHAWKS (15-5)
VS.
RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (12-8)**

Tonight's Matchup:

The big story (and I mean 7'0" 330 big) coming into the Nighthawks season was Indiana transfer Jan Maehlen. And while he has been a force, the weaknesses in his game have been apparent in games such as last night's loss to Santa Rita. The big story at the beginning of the season was point guard Lawrence Hampton's absence. He is still yet to play a game this year. Right now however, the big story that no one is talking about is the emergence of power forward Matt Walter, who is leading the team in scoring and rebounding with 16.1 and 10.8 per game. The Rangers will have to contain Walter along with Maehlen tonight to take down Ridge, who currently leads the region at 5-0. On the other end, the Rangers need someone to step up in addition to Favela and Morrison

CDO 64 Rincon 57

At the Salpointe Tip Off Classic, CDO looked awful. They went 1-4 with their only victory coming against Rio Rico. The Dorados averaged only 45 points per game. Well now that the football season is over, the basketball team has added Robbins, Tevis, and McBrayer. This has equated to a hot streak for CDO. Junior wing Josh Lewis may be the happiest to have them back. With the other weapons on the floor, Lewis has more room to operate as he showed versus the Rangers, scoring 36 points. Juan Pablo Favela scored 19 for the Rangers, while Billy Morrison had 11 and 15 rebounds. CDO also beat Ironwood Ridge earlier in the week and must be feeling good heading into 4A Sonoran Region play. They contend with Sabino, Cienega, Pueblo, and Flowing Wells

Tucson 71 Rincon 65

Tucson High currently has no gym and so both teams traveled to Pueblo High School on Friday night to meet up in the Warriors secondary gym. Juan Pablo Favela and Billy Morrison had big games for the Rangers, each finishing with 22 points and 10 rebounds. But after leading the whole game, Rincon wilted down the stretch and gave up a game they really could have used. Tucson's guard combo of Sahkir Smith and Sama Taku torched the Rangers for 50 (27 and 23 respectively) as they cruised by in the final minutes. Back to back losses put the Rangers in hot water. Currently the Rangers are 5-5 in the regular season and sit in 11th in power points (however 5 teams below them have played less games and could pass Rincon with only one more victory)

Rincon 66 Buena 61

It's been 11 days since the Ranger's last home game. They hosted Buena in their first Southern Region home game since the winter break and did just what they needed to pull out the win. Rincon's Juan Pablo Favela had a big night, finishing with 30 points on 10-10 free throw shooting. No other Ranger finished in double figures, but Billy Morrison did pull down 13 big boards in the contest. The Colts were led by juniors Devonte Malcolm and Merle Branch, who scored 17 and 16 respectively, and sophomore Marc Matthews, who had 18. The Rangers will travel to Sierra Vista later this month for a rematch with Buena, who continues to improve. The Colts are young and appear to be a year away from being a real contender but are still capable of stealing a game

Next Home Game: Friday 1/22/10 vs Mountain View

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