

Ranger Gameday: Senior Night Edition

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Last Meeting - January 18, 2011: Rincon/University 83 Ironwood Ridge 76 OT

IRONWOOD RIDGE NIGHTHAWKS (16-10) VS. RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (11-15)

Tonight's Matchup:

While tonight might be special for seniors Jay Bowser and Billy Morrison, it is a big night for all the Rangers. A streak of six straight state tournament appearances hangs in the balance as Rincon teeters in the power rankings (top 16 go to state). A win tonight would likely clinch a spot. In the earlier meeting this year, the Rangers clipped the Nighthawks in overtime after nearly blowing a lead in regulation. It was the first win over Ironwood Ridge in ten games. This is the last game of the year for the Nighthawks, who are still hoping to slip into the top eight and host a state tournament game. Ironwood Ridge will attempt to push the tempo with a trapping full court press. If the Rangers are able to efficiently break it and score, they should be in good shape tonight.

Tucson 50 Rincon 38

The Rangers losing streak stretched to four games with a loss at Tucson Tuesday night. Rincon got out of the gates slow, scoring only three points in the first quarter and ten in the first half. The Rangers again did a great job holding down Badger guard Shakir Smith, who scored only 15; however, even after a strong start to the second half, taking a 24-23 lead, Rincon was unable to stay with Tucson. Dylan Hidalgo led the Rangers with 12 points. This was a disappointing performance, considering Rincon had previously beaten Tucson this year. The Rangers have had an up and down year. After starting 5-1 in region, they have fallen back to 5-5. However with a win against Ironwood Ridge, Rincon would still finish third in region behind Buena and Salpointe.

5A-II Power Points

Team	Record	Points
1. Pinnacle	13-3	76.49
2. Lake Havasu	15-3	75.46
3. Betty Fairfax	14-2	74.41
4. Chaparral	12-5	73.03
5. Desert Mountain	12-3	72.34
6. Deer Valley	13-2	69.76
7. Horizon	10-6	69.03
8. Tolleson	12-4	68.12
9. Boulder Creek	11-5	66.61
10. Ironwood Ridge	9-8	65.52
11. Marcos de Niza	10-7	65.48
12. South Mountain	9-7	63.51
13. Perry	8-9	62.48
14. Millennium	9-8	61.30
15. Cibola	10-4	61.20
16. Rincon	7-9	60.86
17. Westview	9-9	59.68
18. Central	7-8	58.54
19. Willow Canyon	7-9	55.50

Buena 83 Rincon 71

The league-leading Colts got more than they bargained for last week, as the Rangers nearly pulled the upset in a game that was much closer than the final score. Dylan Hidalgo had one of his best games of the year, going 7-10 from the floor and 11-11 from the line for 27 points. Hidalgo also added 5 assists. Billy Morrison was the only other Ranger in double figures with 16. Buena's fast paced style got them ahead early, led by Marc Matthews, who finished with a game high 29 points and 16 rebounds. Devonte Malcolm took over in the second half, scoring 20 for the game. The Colts shot 7-14 from three. Buena beat Salpointe last night to win the 5A Southern Region crown. Rincon will travel to Sierra Vista next Wednesday (2/16) for a rematch with Buena.

Next Games: Wednesday 2/16 @ Buena and Wednesday 2/23 vs TBD (1st Round State Playoffs)