

The Ranger Gameday

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Rincon/University

3 Fred Cox
4 Dylan Hidalgo
10 Mack Flaherty
20 Corey Bullock
21 Hasan Tucker
22 Jay Bowser
30 Billy Morrison
32 Jeremy Parmenter
33 Asha Esprit
40 Charles Muse
42 Patrick Tafoya

Tucson High

2 John-Thomas Benson
3 Sean Ochiagha
4 Ruben Silva
5 Shakir Smith
10 Johnny Bayardo
11 Zachary Weathers
20 Cameron Volk
21 Jorge Ramirez
32 Andres Ferreria
33 Max Eichenour
40 Miguel Mendivil
42 Jose Acosta
50 John Jackson



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Last Meeting - February 9, 2010: Rincon/University 77 Tucson 73

TUCSON BADGERS (7-5)

VS.

RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (8-10)

Tonight's Matchup:

This is an important game for both teams as Tucson needs desperately to avoid falling to 0-3 in league play and the Rangers get their first shot at a legitimate region opponent. Last year, Shakir Smith was the Southern Region player of the year. He and running mate Sama Taku were a dangerous force together. This year, with Taku's departure, Smith has been moved away from his natural position at point guard and into a role of primary scorer, and he is doing it well. How well? Smith is averaging over 20 points a game including 46 on Tuesday against Sahuaro. No other Badger is averaging more than 9 points per game. So the formula seems pretty simple: if the Rangers can contain Smith, they should be in good shape to win this game. Easier said than done.

Nogales 76 Rincon 64

In their last non-region contest of the year, the Rangers travelled to Nogales last Thursday, but returned home unsatisfied in a loss to the Apaches. Rincon played well early before giving up a mini-run in the second quarter that propelled Nogales to a four-point halftime lead. In the second half, the Apaches upped the pressure, causing ten turnovers in the third quarter alone, most of which led to transition buckets. Nogales won the third quarter 26-12 and effectively put the game away early. Joseph Monreal scored 26 for the Apaches on an impressive 11-14 shooting. Billy Morrison scored 21 and Dylan Hidalgo and Asha Esprit added 15 and 12 respectively. The Rangers now must regroup for the tough Southern Region schedule they have the rest of the year.

Southern Region News

The Rangers beat Southern Region opponents Mountain View and Sunnyside before the break and are still sitting at 2-0 in region play. This is thanks to a couple of scheduling moves. While Rincon moved games with Buena (to the end of the season) and Salpointe (to MLK day), the rest of the teams have been in action. Buena has jumped to the top of the league with a 3-0 record and Salpointe remains undefeated at 2-0. Those two teams will match up next Tuesday. Ironwood Ridge is at 3-1 with their only loss at Buena. Tucson is 0-2 to start with losses to Buena and Ironwood Ridge. Bringing up the tail end are Mountain View (at 1-4) and Sunnyside (at 0-4). The next five days (vs Tucson, Salpointe, and Ironwood Ridge) will be very telling about this year's Rangers.

CDO 60 Rincon 53

At the Salpointe Tournament, the Rangers upended the Dorados 48-47. But in last week's rematch, Josh Lewis, who missed the first game, proved to be the difference, scoring a game high 24 points and going 6 of 7 from the free throw line down the stretch to ice it. Billy Morrison and Dylan Hidalgo scored 16 and 15 respectively to keep Rincon close, but in the end CDO was too much. The game was tied with four minutes to go, when Lewis drove to the basket repeatedly, scoring seven straight points and putting the Rangers in the position where they had to foul. The Dorados, except for Lewis, missed some free throws late but Rincon was unable to consistently convert to get back into the game. CDO then turned around and lost to Tucson by two last Thursday.

Special Event: Monday 1/17/11 vs Salpointe at McKale Center 4PM