

# Favela sparks Rincon to win over Buena

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Rincon/University star shooting guard Juan Pablo Favela speaks basketball.

Favela — a second-year transplant from Sinaloa, Mexico — is admittedly weak on his English skills.

But that does not seem to affect him on the basketball court.

"Basketball is its own form of communication and he picked things up real quickly as soon as he got here last year," said Rincon coach Rich Utter. "It really is not an issue at all. He has responded to everything we've asked him to do."

Favela, the Rangers' 6-foot, 180-pound main scoring threat, did not enter Tuesday night's 62-56 Salpointe Tip-Off Classic win over Sierra Vista Buena until there were already three minutes gone in the second quarter — a violation of a team rule kept him out of the starting line-up.

"I don't like sitting but I know that has to happen because of the rules," said Favela through a translator. "I'm a team player and I like to be aggressive, and I just tried to do that (when I got in)."  
When he finally checked in with 3:53 left in the first half, Rincon trailed 27-15.

By the time the buzzer sounded to end the period, Rincon had reversed its deficit and reeled off a 16-2 run en route to a 31-29 advantage.

Favela drained two three-pointers during that spree, and guard Ivan Gonzalez added four points on two strong drives to the basket. Favela finished with 12 points.

Favela found a different way to contribute down the stretch in the second half, drilling all four of his free throws in that span and providing his teammates open looks by making several clean passes out of double teams to open shooters.

That was hardly the only lift Favela, who is just four weeks back from a torn ACL, provided for the Rangers this week.

He also drilled a last-second three-pointer against Amphitheater on Monday in a 73-70 win.

"He really wasn't able to play at all until last month, so he is not in top game shape yet," said Utter.

Buena also had a serious scorer. Guard Devonte Malcolm had a game-high 23 points to keep the Colts ahead or within striking distance until the final minutes.

Billy Morrison added 18 points for the Rangers.