

The Ranger Gameday

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Last Meeting – December 28, 2007: Sierra Vista Buena 91 Rincon/University 61

**SIERRA VISTA BUENA COLTS (18-4)
VS.
RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (9-13)**

Tonight's Matchup:

Considering all the preseason hype that was not given to Buena, but to Tucson and Salpointe instead, the Colts are doing fairly well. They are not flashy, but they are solid every night. They have had five different players be their game high scorers this year, two of which are not starters and Brandon MacLellan has had games of 15, 17, and 17 in the three games against Rincon this year. So what can Rincon do? The Rangers must control the ball and take advantage of every possession (like the Chargers didn't do in the second half last Sunday). Rincon has a chance if they can keep turnovers down, take high percentage shots, and be patient. They are in much better shape if the game is in the 50's than the 80's. The Rangers must play smart for a full 32 minutes to be in this one.

Ironwood Ridge 76 Rincon 47

While the Rangers were energized and ready to go last Wednesday night, the visiting Nighthawks quickly took the wind out of their sails. Ironwood Ridge jumped out to an early lead and never looked back. Liberty University bound Austin Smith led the charge in the first half scoring both inside and outside. As a 6'8" wing, who hit two threes, it is an understatement to say he creates a matchup problem. He finished with 16, while their other big post, Brandon Duliakas took over in the second half on his way to a game-high 20. Calvin Barbera also scored in double digits for the Nighthawks. As for Rincon, Gilbert Tafoya managed to get to ten points despite having to shoot over Smith and Duliakas. But it was Travis Timmon's 12 that was the Rincon high.

Rincon 48 Salpointe 58

Following an ejection in Sierra Vista on Wednesday, the city's leading scorer, Chase Adams, was forced to sit Friday's home game against Rincon. After a lackluster first half by both teams, the Rangers jumped out in the third quarter building a lead of as much as eight. It appeared as if Rincon would roll over the Lancers without their star. However, Salpointe turned up the defensive intensity in the fourth quarter and the Rangers folded under the pressure. On the other end, Nick Navarette (14 points) and Oscar Ruiz (13) stopped forcing outside shots and effectively drove to the basket for easy lay ups. All in all, it resulted in an 18-3 fourth quarter in favor of Salpointe. Jesse Henry and Gilbert Tafoya kept Rincon in it with 11 each, but none in the last period.

Region Records:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>5A Southern</u>	<u>Total</u>
Buena	4-0	8-0	18-4
Salpointe	3-1	7-1	18-4
Casa Grande	1-2	4-4	8-10
Tucson	0-4	3-5	13-7
Ridge	3-1	5-3	18-4
Rincon	2-1	2-6	9-13
Mt. View	2-2	3-5	13-9
Sunnyside	0-3	0-8	6-16