

The Ranger Gameday

December 7, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 3

Rincon/University

3 Brandon Stair
4 Travis Timmons
5 Andrew Martinez
10 Jeff Zurbrick
11 Josh Harper
20 Aaron Ravenell
21 Jesse Henry
22 Nate Foster
23 JC Gonzalez
31 Gilbert Tafoya
32 Rob Perry
33 Eli Foy

Salpointe Catholic

1 Frank Kalil
2 Zedric Thornton
3 Tyler Gage
4 Nick Navarrete
5 Andrew Arzouman
10 Shane Loomer
11 Chase Adams
12 Sami Zarifi
15 Trevor Eggleston
20 Adam Gomez
21 Brian Davis
22 Louis Vasquez
40 Matt Nash
44 Oscar Ruiz

Last Meeting - December 18, 2006: Rincon/University 95 Salpointe 78

SALPOINTE LANCERS (8-0)

VS.

RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (4-5)

5A Southern Region Preview:

We are now entering the third year of the duel division system for 4A and 5A, in which 16 of the 30 teams in each division makes the state tournament. Hard to believe there was a time in which that feat was something to be celebrated (such as when only 24 of 64 4A teams advanced that far). Nevertheless, this is the system in place, so be it. However, another problem occurs in Southern Arizona since there are not enough 5A teams in either division to make a complete region. Therefore, the four 5A-I and four 5A-II teams combine to make one region. But just to add more confusion, AIA has decided that this year, only games against the teams in your division will count as region games, meaning each team will play only six region games to determine a region champion. OK, now the actual teams. Despite all the hype that the papers have given Tucson High, for 5A-I, Salpointe will be the team to beat in this division. They return just about every player from last year's team and captured the trophy in their preseason tournament for the first time since 2002. Tucson also is stacked and will probably finish second but don't be surprised if Buena takes a game off either Salpointe or Tucson sometime this year. The dark horse is Casa Grande who was part of a Phoenix region last year. For 5A-II, the clear frontrunner is Ironwood Ridge. Their size up front will be a tough obstacle to overcome for all the other teams. In spite of early season losses to Mountain View and Sunnyside, Rincon will finish second as they continue to grow and mesh together. Mountain View will be third and Sunnyside will bring up the rear of the 5A-II Southern Region.

Tonight's Matchup:

Salpointe and Rincon have very little in common. Salpointe is private; Rincon is public. Salpointe is perennially 5A; Rincon just moved up. Salpointe's team is comprised almost exclusively of seniors; Rincon is junior laden. Among all the other differences, it is that last one that will be on display tonight. The Ranger team is sure to be filled with adrenaline, as nine Rangers will be playing in their first region contest of their career, not to mention that it is against a Tucson powerhouse. It is important that the Rangers turn the adrenaline into positive energy rather than nervousness. The key match up of the game will be a microcosm of the big picture. Salpointe senior, Chase Adams, will start out being covered by Rincon junior JC Gonzalez. Adams led the city in scoring last season and continues to fill it up this season (Avg. 25.6 ppg). The next two best scorers for the Lancers are Adam Gomez and Oscar Ruiz in that order. Rincon is going to need several different players to step up in one-way or another. This would be a huge victory for this young Ranger squad

Rincon 81 Sahuaro 47:

Wow what a blowout. The Rangers got the lead all the way up to forty points at one time. Had a couple benchwarmers from Sahuaro not thrown in a couple threes late in the game, this would have been a fifty-point victory. Rincon got strong performances from almost every player they put on the floor, including double digit scoring from Gilbert Tafoya, Rob Perry, Brandon Stair, and Travis Timmons. Tafoya also pulled down 11 boards and Perry had nine. It should be noted that Sahuaro's #22 Zane Rico finished 0-8 from beyond the three point line as the Rincon crowd put continued pressure on him for airballing his first jump shot. The way he was completely thrown off his game is quite a tribute to the home fans.

