

Ranger Gameday: MLK Day Edition

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Last Meeting - November 23, 2010: Salpointe 65 Rincon/University 59

SALPOINTE LANCERS (14-3)

VS.

RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (9-10)

Rincon/Salpointe 4PM:

When Rincon played Salpointe at the beginning of the year, the young and inexperienced Rangers struggled in the final minutes against the veteran Lancers. And yet the six-point margin was the smallest Salpointe had in their 5-0 run to the championship of their preseason tournament. They feature shooter Emilio Acedo (46% 3FG), swingman Colby Weaver (who scored 40 in a game earlier this year) and inside presence Talbott Denny (also averaging 6.3 rebounds per game). Each averages over 10 points per game. Both teams come into today's contest at McKale Center with matching 3-0 records in region. The winner will move into a first place tie with Buena at 4-0. Salpointe plays at Buena on Tuesday and Rincon travels to Ironwood Ridge (3-2).

Palo Verde/Amphi 8PM:

The main event of the evening features two of the best teams in southern Arizona, battling for the Gila Region crown. Amphi (16-2) is averaging over 80 points a game using a full court trapping press. The panthers are led in scoring by senior Lester Medford who is averaging 19.4 points, 3.9 rebounds, 4.2 assists, and 3.0 steals per game. Junior Tim Derkson is quickly becoming a top-level college prospect averaging 17.0 points, 9.7 rebounds, 4.8 assists, and 3.8 steals per game while shooting 57% FG. Palo Verde (12-6) also has two great players. Seniors Roland Jones and Dorian Paige are scoring 21.8 and 18.3 points per game respectively. Jones is averaging 11.8 rebounds and Paige 5.1 steals per game in addition to their scoring.

Rincon 53 Tucson 50

Friday night, in front of a raucous crowd at Ranger gymnasium, Rincon beat Tucson High to move to 3-0 in the 5A Southern Region. The Rangers were able to hold down Badger star Shakir Smith, who finished with only 6 points (including a buzzer beater three) on 2-8 shooting from the floor. Rincon got off to a fast start, leading 18-7 at the end of the first quarter and maintained a double-digit lead until the last minute and a half of the game. Billy Morrison led the Rangers with 19 points, seven rebounds, and six assists. Dylan Hidalgo had 10 points, 7 rebounds, and seven assists. Big men Asha Esprit and Jeremy Parmenter controlled the paint, combining for 17 points, 27 rebounds, and 8 blocks. Rincon will play at Tucson High on February 8th.

Flowing Wells/Sahuaro 2PM:

After being down for a couple of years, Sahuaro appears to be back on track. The Cougars, led by senior forward Dior Ford, are 12-6 and have won three of four since the break. Those three wins are against legitimate opponents Foothills, CDO, and Tucson High. Flowing Wells appears to be going in the other direction. They are 6-15 on the season, including five straight double-digit losses in January. The Caballeros are led in scoring by senior guard Eric Varela, who is averaging 14.5 points and 4.1 assists per game. Look for the Cougars to win this one by a decent margin. This will be the second game of the day, preceded by Desert Christian versus Northwest Christian (Girls). The 6PM game will also be a girls matchup between CDO and Sabino.

Next Home Game: Tuesday 1/25/11 vs Sunnyside