

The Ranger Gameday

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Rincon/University

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Last Meeting – January 4, 2011: Canyon Del Oro 60 Rincon 53

CDO DORADOS (9-5)

VS.

RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (10-6)

First Semester in Review:

The Rangers began this season at the Salpointe Tip Off Classic with a game against host Salpointe. Rincon lost that opening game but won three of their next four games (against Santa Rita, Moreau Catholic, and Trevor Browne, with a loss to North). Dylan Hidalgo led the Rangers in scoring in three of the games but it was Asha Esprit's 27 points against Moreau Catholic, as part of the comeback victory, that highlighted the week. Rincon kept it rolling with week one wins over Sunnyside and Sabino. However, they stumbled to begin week two with a loss at Sahuaro. The Rangers rebounded later that week with a win at Marana before playing what has so far been the game of the year in southern Arizona, a four overtime thriller versus Cienega. Down 44-42 with only seconds remaining, Dylan Hidalgo hit a fade away jumper to end regulation and send the game to the first overtime. Following three overtimes of back and forth action and failed last second shots for both teams, the Rangers again went to Hidalgo with the game tied in the fourth overtime. Hidalgo broke down his defender and put in a final basket with less than three seconds left to give Rincon the 70-68 win. The Rangers travel to Cienega this Thursday in a rematch of this game. The final game of the first semester brought a loss at the hands of Ironwood Ridge (66-58). At this point, the Rangers are 14th in power points in their section and 34th overall in Division 1.

Tonight's Matchup:

The Rangers host the Dorados tonight in a matchup of apparently even teams. Both come into tonight's game with records four games over .500 and with 2-2 records against common opponents (wins against Santa Rita and Sabino, losses against Ironwood Ridge and Salpointe). CDO is led in scoring by Johnny Black but have four fairly equal weapons with guard Nico Hughes and posts John Jackson and Ty Ochse all averaging nearly ten points per game. The Rangers, who have been bit by the injury bug as of late, will hope to push through this week and hopefully return to full strength by their next home game a week from Thursday with five days off after Mountain View this Friday

Holiday Hoops Classic

The Rangers again travelled to Prescott Valley over the winter break to play their second tournament of the year. Rincon opened up with day one wins over Camp Verde (62-50) and Cibola (66-65). Day two brought the Rangers a repool and another victory over Notre Dame 58-48. However, Rincon fell to the defending champion Las Vegas Cimarron 71-56 in the nightcap. The Rangers also lost in the third place game the next day to Paradise Valley 63-46. In the championship game, Gilbert Perry defeated Cimarron 57-55. For Rincon, both Dylan Hidalgo and Asha Esprit were named to the all-tournament team. This marks the fifth year (out of five) that the Rangers have finished in the top six of this tournament.

Next Home Game: Thursday 1/12 vs Desert View