

Ranger Gameday: Senior Night Edition

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Last Meeting - November 29, 2011: Rincon/University 58 Sunnyside 49

SUNNYSIDE BLUE DEVILS (1 1 - 1 1)

Vs.

RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (1 8 - 9)

Tonight's Matchup:

Two months ago, Rincon opened up play against sectional opponents with a game on the road at Sunnyside; a close game that they eventually won by nine. However, don't expect tonight's teams to look anything similar. With two months of improvement for both teams, Rincon's addition of dynamic wing Hasan Tucker, and Sunnyside's addition of Norman Wolf Chief, tonight's matchup should be a much sharper one than round one. Raul Castro leads the Sunnyside in scoring on the year as the Blue Devils will run and shoot the three. While they are out of the playoff picture, they come into the night looking to play spoiler on Rincon's postseason run and senior night. Meanwhile, the Rangers need this game to keep their season rolling into the postseason.

Rincon 58 Ridge 52

The Nighthawks hosted their senior night yesterday and were looking to finish their regular season undefeated, coming into the game 17-0 in games that count for power points. But the Rangers needed the game even more. With their season hanging on the edge of the power points cliff, Rincon went to Ironwood Ridge and avenged an earlier loss with one of their most impressive performances of the season. After battling early, the Nighthawks controlled the second quarter and took an 8-point lead into halftime. The Rangers owned the third quarter however, with Asha Esprit (14 pts) and Fred Cox (14 pts) leading the scoring barrage. Dylan Hidalgo (17 pts) iced the game down the stretch as Rincon moved one step closer to their goals.

Postseason Picture

Rincon is in Division I, which has 62 teams and three sections. Rincon is in Section II, which has 21 teams. The top 8 teams from each section make sectionals. The top 4 teams at each sectional tournament make the state tournament along with 12 at-large teams. Rincon is currently 10th in Section II and 21st overall in Division I. With a win tonight, the Rangers have an outside chance of slipping into the sectional tournament. They would almost assuredly jump Perry but would also need to pass Dobson in order to make the sectional tournament. But more importantly, a win tonight likely puts the Rangers into the state tournament with one of the at-large bids. However a loss likely puts the Rangers on the outside looking in and needing some help from others.

Rincon 62 Marana 26

The Rangers came into the final week of the season needing at least two wins to get in the playoff hunt. And after one quarter Tuesday, it wasn't looking good. The visiting Tigers took an early 14-7 lead before Rincon swept into action in the second quarter. Following back-to-back buckets by Hasan Tucker and Dylan Hidalgo, Asha Esprit stole a cross-court and threw down a thunderous two-hand dunk while getting fouled. The play ignited the crowd and the Rangers, who finished the quarter on a run that they carried over to the second half. Rincon opened the third quarter on a 17-0 tear effectively putting the game away. Dylan Hidalgo finished with 20 points and Asha Esprit had 18 to pace the Rangers. The Rincon defense held Marana to only 12 points in the final three quarters.