

The Ranger Gameday

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Last Meeting - January 20, 2012: Rincon/University 50 Mountain View 31

**MT VIEW MOUNTAIN LIONS (7-2)
Vs.
RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (6-6)**

Tonight's Matchup:

Unlike past Mountain Lion teams, expect this years version to be pushing the tempo in tonight's game. Mountain View is averaging nearly 62 points a contest as compared to Rincon's 58. The Lions are led by sophomore Sam Thompkins, who is scoring 19 points a game and adding 8 rebounds. Thompkins is shooting 53% from the field for the season and while the 3-pointer isn't where hes making his living, he has been able to step out and knock some down 8-19 (42%). Deondrae Johnson is the other Mountain View player to look out for. He is averaging 14.2 points per game and shooting 39% from three. The Mountain Lions big two will match up often against Rincon's Asha Esprit and Kevionte Alexander and the pair that wins that battle will likely get a W for their team.

Rincon 43 CDO 42

A defensive battle last Tuesday at CDO turned into a narrow victory for Rincon thanks to stops down the stretch and the calming influence of Asha Esprit. The big man went for 17 points on 7-10 shooting from the field and chipped in his average 9 rebounds to lead the Rangers. Esprit scored 8 of his 17 in the final quarter and CDO went cold after leading at the half. The Dorado's interior men Ty Ochse and John Jackson were ineffective inside, combining for only 5 points and no Dorado reached double figures. Although a costly turnover nearly bit the Rangers in the final ten seconds, a scramble at the end resulted in the horn sounding before CDO could get one last game-changing bucket.

Rincon 51 Ridge 49 OT

Asha Esprit was held in check Friday night at Ironwood Ridge by triple teams every time he caught the ball in the post but some good passing out of traps led to easy buckets for the Rangers as they toppled the Nighthawks in overtime. Rincon held a two point lead at the end of regulation but Ridge tied it up with only a few seconds remaining and after a desperation heave, it was headed to overtime. The Nighthawks had a one point lead with a minute left to play in the extra period when Kevionte Alexander knocked down what looked to be the biggest shot of the night. However, after another Ridge bucket, it was left to him to make another huge play. With a step back jumper as time expired, Alexander lifted Rincon victory. He led all scorers with 18 points.

Cienega 58 Rincon 48

The first half was a one-man show for the Rangers in Vail as Asha Esprit scored 23 of Rincon's 25 first half points. However, the Rangers were unable to stop the Bobcats on the other end and trailed 32-25. Esprit, who finished with 31 on 12-16 shooting, faced double and triple teams all second half and while Rincon was able to pull within 2 at one point midway through the fourth quarter, Cienega was too strong in the end. The Bobcats balanced attack left the Rangers chasing the ball around all evening. Four Cienega players reached double figures while no other Rincon player did. Esprit also grabbed 14 rebounds in his effort to keep his team in the game. The two teams face off again as the first game after the winter break.

Next Home Game: Tuesday 1/8/12 vs Cienega