

The Ranger Gameday

December 4, 2012
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Rincon/University

3 Joe Mueller
4 Jason Chamberlain
5 Kevionte Alexander
10 Mack Flaherty
11 Jesus Nunez
12 Corey Bullock
20 Michael Bernal
21 Juan Figueroa
22 Charles Muse
23 Brendan Rumel
30 Elijah Wesley
32 Michael Miranda
33 Asha Esprit
42 David Kerry

Sahuaro

2 Andre Bearden
3 James Molina
5 Colt Frighetti
10 Darrin Slocum
12 Cole Sterns
15 Nate Renfro
20 Quon Hammonds
22 Owen Sanchez
30 Greg Molina
32 Jordan Lane
33 Caleb Larson
42 Arthur Gibson
44 Steven Duncan
45 Brian Jacobs

Last Meeting - December 6, 2010: Sahuaro 50 Rincon/University 45

SAHUARO COUGARS (6-2)

Vs.

RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (3-4)

Tonight's Matchup:

Following Sahuaro's Friday night buzzer-beating victory 62-60 over Salpointe, the Arizona Daily Star highlighted the Cougars upcoming matchup this Friday against Catalina Foothills. The paper chose to ignore Sahuaro's three-point victory on Tuesday over Sabino (a team that Rincon dominated only three days later in a 68-46 victory). The Cougars run and gun, averaging 7.5 three-pointers a game. They are led by junior James Molina, who is averaging 16.6 PPG on 48% three-point shooting. Bearden, Sanchez, Gibson, and Lane each average between 8 and 10.5 points a game with Sanchez and Bearden both also shooting over 40% from behind the arc. The Rangers will need to get out on shooters and slow the Sahuaro attack down to get a win here tonight.

Sunnyside 69 Rincon 62

Four Blue Devils got into double-figures last Tuesday night as the Rangers dropped their opening home contest. The pace played to Sunnyside's advantage as they neared the 70-point mark. Rincon had a 4-point lead heading into the fourth quarter before running out of gas and falling 23-12 in the final period. Asha Esprit had his typical big game scoring 31 points and 13-18 shooting. He added 10 rebounds and 5 blocks. Jesus Nunez posted his first double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds. Kevionte Alexander added 12 points. Rincon's shooting woes from the field and the free throw line cost them late. The Rangers face the Devils on the road in the final game of the season, February 1st.

Rincon 68 Sabino 46

The Jekyll and Hyde nature of the Rangers showed its good side Friday night, solidly defeating the Sabercats in the first true road matchup of the season. Even with Sabino's top player Matt Bushman returning from injury and scoring 16 points, the Cats had no answer for the Rangers who took an 18 point lead into the half and cruised to a 22 point victory. Call it an off game for Asha Esprit who recorded only 24 points and 7 rebounds, sitting nearly the entire fourth quarter. Guards Kevionte Alexander and Michael Miranda added 14 and 13 respectively while Miranda handed out 7 assists and Alexander has 6 steals. The Rangers shot 53% from the floor and 77% from the line. Sabino hurried three-point attempts, going 1-17 from downtown.

Division Realignment

Every two years, the AIA gathers school enrollment data and reclassifies all of the schools for the next two year set. The Rangers were originally placed into Division I, but as part of a Southern Arizona appeal, have been moved to Division II for the 2013-2015 seasons. There are 76 teams in Division II statewide, 23 of which reside in Southern Arizona. This is an exciting change, where the best Tucson teams will likely be competing in February. These teams will be broken down into 3 or 4 sections. Many decisions are yet to come, including section placement (first-draft sections will be released December 11th), scheduling of section games, use of power points to decide section winner, etc but all-in-all this is great news for Rincon Basketball.



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Next Home Game: Thursday 12/6/12 vs Marana