

# Eric Rice

**Family:** Born—Sept. 7, 1973. College—Adams State College, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Exercise Physiology (1996). Coach Rice and his wife Laurie have been married for 12 years, and they have an 9 year old daughter, Hayley and a 6 year old son, Chaz. Both Coach Rice and Laurie are teachers and coaches at Fort Collins High School. Eric's wife Laurie was a two time 400 meter state champion in the state of Colorado (5A) in 1998 and 1999. Eric is the son of Ron and LaNell Rice. Coach Rice has two younger brothers. Kevin Rice had been a head high school football coach for 10 years, 2 at Green Mountain and 8 years at Skyline before serving as the Lambkins defensive coordinator in 2015 and 2016. Ryan Rice, the youngest of the three brothers, served two tours in the Iraq war and retired from his military service as a captain in the US Marine Corps.

**Playing Career:** Coach Rice played high school football under Don McGatlin at Green Mountain High School in Lakewood, Colorado. He played on Green Mountain teams that in consecutive years reached the state's Final Four of the class 3A playoffs in 1989 and then 5A playoffs in 1990. Coach Rice graduated from Green Mountain in 1991. He played college football under Head Coach Jeff Geiser at Adams State College. Coach Rice was named to the Rocky Mountain Athletic All-Conference Team in 1993 and 1995. Coach Rice has played Arena Football for several teams in several different states. In 1998, he played for the Green Bay Bombers in the inaugural season of the Indoor Professional Football League. In 1999, he played middle linebacker in the IPFL for the Rocky Mountain Thunder in Colorado Springs. Coach Rice then played for the Rapid City Red Dogs of the National Indoor Football League in 2001, 2002, and 2003. Finally, he played defensive end and fullback for the Erie Freeze of the American Indoor Football League during the summer of 2005.

**Coaching Career:** Coach Rice began his coaching career his first year out of college, coaching defensive backs for Santa Rosa High School in California during the 1996 season. He then returned home to Colorado where he was the defensive line coach for Green Mountain H.S. (1997 and 1998). Coach Rice was promoted to defensive coordinator at Green Mountain in 1999 as the Rams won their school's second State Football Championship in the state 4A playoffs that year. He remained the defensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Green Mountain through the 2001 season. He became the defensive coordinator for the Rapid City Red Dogs of the National Indoor Football League in 2002 while playing middle linebacker at the same time. In the fall of 2002, Coach Rice took the defensive coordinator position at New Mexico Highlands University. In 2003, Coach Rice became the Head Football Coach at Fort Collins High School. He has compiled a 100-72 win/loss record in 16 seasons.

In 2004 Coach Rice led the Lambkins back into the 5A playoffs and a trip to the final four, a place they had not been since their last state championship title in 1953. For his efforts in 2004, Coach Rice was named 5A Coach of the Year by the Rocky Mountain News. In 2005, Coach Rice led the Lambkins to a share of the Front Range Conference title (their first in 9 years) and another berth in the state 5A playoffs, advancing to the quarterfinals. In 2006, the Lambkins had an undefeated regular season and another Front Range Conference Championship. The Lambkins again advanced to the Final Four in the 5A playoffs, losing the only game of their 2006 season to the eventual state champions, the Columbine Rebels. Coach Rice was named the Coach of the Year in the Front Range League in 2006. In 2009 Coach Rice led the Lambkins to an 8-1 regular season record, a city championship and earned a #4 seed in the state 5A playoffs. During the 2010 season, Coach Rice again led the Lambkins to an 8-1 regular season record, a #11 seed in the 5A state playoffs, a city championship and the Front Range League Championship. The Lambkins went 5-0 in league play and Coach Rice was named the Front Range League Coach of the Year for the second time in his coaching career with the Lambkins. During the 2012 football season, the Rice led Lambkin's started the season off 0-3 and then ripped off 7 straight wins. During the 7 game win streak the Lambkin's went on to a 5-0 conference record, another city of Fort Collins Championship, another Front Range League Championship, a #15 seed playoff (5A) berth and a first round playoff win vs. Lakewood. For the third time in his coaching career, Coach Rice was named 2012 Front Range League Coach of the Year. In the 2014 season, Coach Rice led the Lambkins to an undefeated regular season and an 11-1 overall record, a 4A Northern Conference Championship, a #2 seed in the 4A playoffs, a quarterfinal playoff berth and again for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in his career Coach Rice was named coach of the year, this time as the 4A Northern Conference Coach of the Year.

In the 2015 season, the Lambkins rebounded from a 1-3 start to the season to go 7-3 in the regular season and 5-0 in the 4A Northern Conference and earned the Lambkins a back to back conference championship. The Lambkins lost in a close game to Wheat Ridge in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the 4A playoffs 19-14. For the 6<sup>th</sup> time in his coaching career, Coach Rice was voted Coach of the Year, this time as the 4A Northern Conference Coach of the Year for the second straight season.