

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 17 years, and they have a 15 year old daughter, Hayley, a 12 year old son, Chaz and a 5 yr. old daughter, Payton. Both Coach Rice and Laurie are teachers at Douglas County High School. Eric's wife Laurie was a two-time 400-meter state champion in the state of Colorado (5A) in 1998 and 1999. Laurie is the Head Boys Track Coach at Douglas County HS. 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 Fort Collins HS 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 United States 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. Coach Rice also spent three years as the Defensive Coordinator for the Colorado Ice.....Northern Colorado's indoor football team. From 2003-2018 Coach Rice was Head Football Coach at Fort Collins High School and now from 2019-2024 Coach Rice has been the head coach here at Douglas County HS. During his 20 years as Head Football Coach of Fort Collins HS and Douglas County HS, he has compiled a 117-102 win/loss record.

In 2004 Coach Rice led the Fort Collins 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 Fort Collins 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, Fort Collins had an undefeated regular season and another Front Range Conference Championship. Fort Collins 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 of Fort Collins 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 of Fort Collins championship and the Front Range League Championship. Fort Collins 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 Fort Collins football team 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 Fort Collins 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 6th 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 Fort Collins 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 1st round of the 4A playoffs 19-14. For the 6th 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.

In December of 2018 Coach Rice stepped down from his head coaching position at Fort Collins HS after 16 seasons. After going through the interview process in January of 2019, Coach Rice was awarded the job and became the new Head Football Coach at Douglas County HS. This 2024 season will be Coach Rice's 6th year as Head Football Coach at Douglas County HS and Coach Rice's 22nd season as a head football coach in the state of Colorado.