

A native of Northern California, Eric was born in Redwood City, California, and attended St. Francis High School in Mountain View. He shined for the Lancers on the baseball diamond, as well as the football field, where he scored 14 touchdowns as a senior running back. After graduation, Eric headed to UCLA to play baseball for the Bruins. After a stellar career at UCLA, he began his professional career in 1998, when he was signed by Rick Magnante and the Oakland Athletics. Byrnes quickly made his presence known with the A's, leading the club's farm system in batting, with a .357 average (99 for 277) in 71 games with Visalia and Southern Oregon. Eric would make his first appearance as an Oakland Athletic in 2000 and would regularly be called up from Triple-A Sacramento from 2000 to 2002. After an injury to Jermaine Dye at the beginning of the 2003 season, Byrnes would become a regular in the A's outfield. Eric had his best season with the A's in 2004, as he hit .283 with 20 home runs and collected 73 RBI's, which are all career highs. He began the 2005 season with the A's before he was traded July 13 to the Colorado Rockies. The Rockies traded Byrnes a few weeks later to the Baltimore Orioles and he made his debut with the team on July 30, 2005. Becoming a free agent after the 2005 season, the Arizona Diamondbacks signed Eric to a one-year deal worth \$2.2 million. He will play center field for Arizona, and will play in the city in which he has an offseason home.