

= Eric Hosmer =

Eric John Hosmer (born October 24 , 1989) is an American professional baseball first baseman for the Kansas City Royals of Major League Baseball (MLB) . He has played for the Royals since making his MLB debut on May 6 , 2011 .

A highly touted prospect coming out of American Heritage High School in Florida , Hosmer was described as a " left @-@ handed hitter with raw power " by scouts . He was drafted as the third overall pick in the 2008 MLB draft where he received a \$ 6 million signing bonus . He advanced relatively quickly in minor league baseball , before debuting in MLB . He finished third in the Rookie of the Year ballot for the 2011 season after hitting .293 with 19 home runs in 128 games . He was the MVP of the 2016 MLB All @-@ Star game .

= = Early life = =

Hosmer 's father , Mike , is a retired firefighter , and his mother , Ileana , is a nurse . His mother was born in Cuba and came to the United States at the age of seven with her family to escape Fidel Castro 's regime , growing up in Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania . His parents met in 1979 when Mike was assigned to duty at Coral Gables Hospital in Coral Gables , Florida , where Ileana worked . They married four years later . Their first son Mike Jr. was born in 1985 , and Eric was born four years later in Miami .

Growing up in Cooper City , Hosmer credited his family for helping him succeed as a baseball player . He began playing baseball at an early age , using a Tony Gwynn teeball hitter to take practice swings . His father volunteered to do 48 @-@ hour shifts in a firehouse in Liberty City , a tough neighborhood in Miami , to focus on his son 's baseball games which he usually coached . The Hosmers traveled all over the state , and as far as Cooperstown , New York , home of the Baseball Hall of Fame , to play in baseball tournaments . At home , Hosmer watched Florida Marlins games to study the hitting techniques of the team players in order to improve his skills . His father helped him with batting practice after finishing long shifts at work , while his mother helped with his homework and taped every baseball game to evaluate Hosmer 's baseball ability and further hone his skills . By the time Hosmer reached high school , he worked out " close to seven hours a day " and mainly ate protein , which helped form his muscular build . Hosmer 's family hired Bladimir Marrero , a highly regarded hitting instructor and the father of Washington Nationals first baseman Chris Marrero , to help with their son 's skills . His brother Mike also played baseball , receiving a scholarship to Florida State University . He was never interested in becoming a professional baseball player , however , and currently is a stock broker in Miami .

= = High school career = =

By the time Hosmer was a teenager , he was a member of several Little League baseball squads that won a couple of state championships . He attended American Heritage School in Plantation , Florida . His parents selected American Heritage because of their rich baseball program , which was considered to be one of the best in the United States , despite the expensive tuition . By Hosmer 's sophomore year , he grew eight inches in size , becoming a powerful prep prospect . In his senior year , Hosmer hit .470 with 11 home runs , as the team was in the top 10 in USA Today 's Super 25 rankings for most of the year and won a state championship . He attracted twenty or more MLB and college scouts who evaluated Hosmer 's every move . Several of his amateur home runs had popularity in YouTube , which caught the attention of sports agent Scott Boras . He received many achievements while in high school including being named as Florida 's Baseball Player of the Year twice by the Miami Herald , a member of the Rawlings High School Gold Glove team , and the American Amateur Baseball Congress Connie Mack MVP award . Hosmer was offered a baseball scholarship to Arizona State University . Hosmer planned to attend Arizona State if negotiations with an MLB team did not go through .

He was named as one of the top five prep baseball players in the country by several scouting

agencies by the time he graduated in 2008 , including number two by Rivals.com and third by both RISE Magazine and Sports Illustrated . As " one of high school baseball top power hitters " by scouts , and a consensus top 10 pick , Hosmer was chosen by the Royals in the first round (third overall selection) of the 2008 MLB draft . Hosmer remained unsigned for most of the summer while the Royals general manager Dayton Moore and Boras , operating as Hosmer 's agent , negotiated a deal . During negotiations , Hosmer helped lead his team based in Cincinnati , to a second @-@ place finish at the American Amateur Baseball Congress Connie Mack World Series . Both sides agreed to a contract ten minutes before the signing dateline for drafted players on August 15 , 2008 . He received a six million dollar signing bonus , the largest sum given to a draft pick in Royals history .

= = Minor leagues = =

Soon after signing his contract , the Royals assigned Hosmer , # 30 at the time , to the Idaho Falls Chukars of the rookie level Pioneer League in minor league baseball . Before reporting to the Chukars , Royals general manager Moore told reporters that Hosmer would not be " rushed " to reach the Majors , stating that he needs to advance through the Minor League hierarchy in his " own natural pace " . He played a handful of games with the Chukars before a contract dispute with another Boras client , Pittsburgh Pirates second overall pick Pedro Alvarez delayed Hosmer from playing with the team . Boras had claimed that Alvarez signed his contract after the August 15 deadline had passed , thus won 't report to the Pirates . The Major League Baseball Players Association filed a grievance stating that Hosmer 's contract was also signed past the deadline and that Major League Baseball extended the August 15 deadline without the association 's permission . Both sides settled the claim a month later , allowing Hosmer and Alvarez to join their respective teams . Hosmer never disputed his original contract . Instead of heading back to the Chukars , Hosmer was sent to the Arizona Fall League to train .

In Hosmer 's first full season in minor league ball , Hosmer was sent to the Burlington Bees in the Midwest League , the Royals ' other rookie league affiliate . At Burlington , Hosmer struggled at the plate . By June 1 , he hit only one home run in 31 games while leading the team in strikeouts . He missed some time with a left pinkie finger injury . At the end of the season , Hosmer hit .241 with six home runs . He later mentioned the 2009 season as " a tough year " . In 2010 , Hosmer was named the seventh best first base prospect by Scout.com. He started the season with the Royals ' Class A @-@ Advanced affiliate , the Wilmington Blue Rocks of the Carolina League. where his struggles continued . He was soon diagnosed with astigmatism , an eye condition and had laser surgery to correct the problem . Hosmer returned to the Blue Rocks a week later and his hitting significantly improved . By May 23 he was hitting .388 with a .571 slugging percentage . He played in the 2010 All @-@ Star Futures Game where he had four hits and two RBI in a 9 @-@ 1 victory . For his effort , Hosmer was promoted to the Northwest Arkansas Naturals of the Class AA Texas League on July 17 , where in his first at @-@ bat he hit a home run . During the playoffs Hosmer hit six home runs , which was individually , the second highest total in a single Texas League playoff series . The team went on to win the Texas League championship .

The Royals ' farm system was ranked number one in baseball entering the 2011 season , led by Hosmer and another top prospect , third baseman Mike Moustakas . Most baseball critics agreed that the Royals , a team that was known for mediocrity the past two decades , would be a contender within a couple of years , and they had nine prospects in Baseball America 's top 100 , a record for the publication . Hosmer was ranked as the best first baseman prospect in Major League Baseball prior to the 2011 season . He was also rated the eighth best overall prospect by Baseball America , and the top Royals prospect overall . So much hype was placed on the Royals that general manager Dayton Moore traded the team 's best player , Cy Young Award winner Zack Greinke to the Milwaukee Brewers for four top prospects , to focus on the team 's future . Hosmer began the season with the Royals Class AAA affiliate , the Omaha Storm Chasers of the Pacific Coast League (PCL) . When the Royals purchased Hosmer 's contract on May 5 , 2011 , he was leading the minor leagues with a .439 batting average and the PCL with 43 hits and a .525 on @-@ base

percentage .

= = MLB career = =

The Royals recalled Hosmer on May 5 , 2011 . Veteran catcher Jason Kendall was moved to the 60 @-@ day disabled list to make space for Hosmer on the 40 @-@ man roster . He made his MLB debut at first base the following day against Oakland Athletics starter Gio Gonzalez , replacing Kila Ka 'aihue . Prior to his debut , Hosmer was being touted by journalists as a " super @-@ prospect " and the " most @-@ hyped " rookie to debut for the Royals since Bo Jackson . The Royals promoted Hosmer before a mid @-@ June deadline in which the Royals could have avoided salary arbitration for an extra year . Hosmer went hitless in two at @-@ bats , striking out twice . Hosmer also walked twice and stole a base in a 3 ? 2 loss as the Royals had the second biggest crowd of the season .

On May 11 at Yankee Stadium , Hosmer started as the cleanup hitter for the Royals ; he hit his first MLB home run off Yankees pitcher A. J. Burnett . In his first month with the Royals , he hit .283 with five home runs and was named the Royals Player of the Month . His batting average fell 14 points by the end of June , with manager Ned Yost citing " impatience at the plate " . He hit a game @-@ winning two @-@ run home run against closer Matt Capps of the Minnesota Twins on July 16 . The home run led the Twins to replace Capps with Joe Nathan as its closer the next day . In the month of July , Hosmer was named the American League (AL) Rookie of the Month . He had five hits , including a three @-@ run home run against Brad Penny in a 10 ? 2 win against the Detroit Tigers on September 20 . The next day , sportswriter Ian Casselberry of MLive.com called Hosmer a " Tiger killer " because of his statistics against the Tigers , which included a .346 batting average with four home runs that season . He led all rookies in most major batting categories for September , earning Hosmer a second Rookie of the Month award .

Hosmer finished third in AL Rookie of the Year voting behind Mark Trumbo of the Los Angeles Angels and winner Jeremy Hellickson of the Tampa Bay Rays . He hit .293 with 19 home runs and 73 runs batted in (RBIs) in 128 games . Yost praised Hosmer , and another rookie , catcher Salvador Pérez , calling them " future perennial All @-@ Star players " .

On February 18 , 2012 , the Royals announced they had signed Hosmer to a one @-@ year contract for the 2012 season . No financial terms of the deal were released . During spring training , Hosmer led all players with 29 RBIs and had a slugging percentage of .714 . Discussing Hosmer 's spring training , Royals Hall of Famer George Brett said , " He 's a baseball player ... He acts like a baseball player . And boy , he 's going to be a damn good one , too . " By opening day , the Kansas City media was hyping Hosmer as the " face of the franchise " , the city " next future sports star " , among other commentary after his performance last year . He started at first base on opening day against the L.A. Angels , going 0 @-@ for @-@ 4 . He hit a home run in a 6 @-@ 3 victory the next day but later struggled , hitting below .200 for the first couple of weeks of the season as the Royals endured an 11 @-@ game losing streak entering April 24 . He ended the season with a .232 / .304 / .359 slash line to go along with 14 home runs and 60 RBIs . In 2013 his defense earned him his first Gold Glove award .

On July 20 , 2014 , in a game against the Boston Red Sox , Hosmer was hit in the hand by a pitch from Jon Lester . At first , he was only day @-@ to @-@ day with a bruised hand . However , on July 31 , in a game against the Minnesota Twins , he aggravated the injury on a checked swing in the fourth inning . X @-@ rays revealed a displaced fracture of the third finger on his right hand . Hosmer missed four weeks due to the injury . He finished the season batting .270 , 9 home runs and 58 runs batted in .

In the 2014 postseason , Hosmer helped lead the Royals to a record @-@ setting run , winning three consecutive extra @-@ inning games . After getting on base five times in the wildcard game against the Oakland A 's , Hosmer also slammed a game @-@ winning , two @-@ run homer in Game 2 of the ALDS against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim . In doing so , the first baseman became the first player in MLB history to hit both a triple and a home run during extra innings in one year 's postseason .

In the early morning hours of October 6 , after the Royals had completed their sweep of the Angels , Hosmer posted on Twitter , inviting Kansas City fans to come out celebrate with him at a downtown bar , the Power and Light District . Eventually , it was reported , " ... (h) ordes showed up , and many of the fans ended up with free drinks as Hosmer ... decided to help pay for an open bar for an hour . With several teammates , he also sprayed some champagne into the crowd . "

On February 18 , 2015 , Hosmer and the Royals agreed to a \$ 13 @. @ 9 million , two @- @ year contract . Hosmer gets \$ 5 @. @ 65 million during the 2015 season and \$ 8 @. @ 25 million during the 2016 season , and will be eligible for arbitration again in 2017 . He will not be eligible for free agency until 2018 . During the 2015 season , Hosmer had a career year with a .297 batting average , with 18 home runs and 93 RBIs . Hosmer also recorded the final putout of the AL Central and the American League Championship Series clinching games . On October 23 , Hosmer tied George Brett for the most RBIs in the postseason (23) in Royals ' franchise history when he singled Lorenzo Cain home from first base representing the go @- @ ahead run in Game 6 of the ALCS . In Game 1 of the 2015 World Series , Hosmer overtook Brett 's record for the most RBIs in the postseason with a walk @- @ off sacrifice fly to bring in Alcides Escobar in the 14th inning , representing Hosmer 's 25th postseason RBI and helping atone for an eighth @- @ inning error that helped the Mets take a one @- @ run lead . Hosmer starred again in game 2 with two hits , a run scored , and two RBIs to help the Royals take a 7 @- @ 1 win and a 2 @- @ 0 series lead . On November 1 , 2015 Hosmer scored the tying run in the 9th inning which eventually led to the Royals win in game 5 of the World Series

Hosmer won his third consecutive Gold Glove Award in 2015 .

On July 12 , 2016 , Hosmer was named the 2016 MLB All @- @ Star Game MVP in San Diego . In the second inning of the All @- @ Star Game , Hosmer hit the game @- @ tying home run off of Johnny Cueto .