



## JOE MORGAN

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Joe Morgan, without realizing it and who, to this day won't take credit, paved the way for African Americans in sports in Colorado Springs. Two years after graduating from Colorado Springs High School, where he wasn't allowed to try out for team sports, Morgan started playing baseball with some friends. They called themselves the Brown Bombers and before long, they were playing at a semi-pro level. They were the only African American team in the league and they drew crowds to Monument Valley Park. In 1951, after claiming two League Championships, the Brown Bombers broke up.

Morgan soon became an umpire and quickly gained a reputation for his talent and fairness. He was one of the first black umpires in Colorado and was being recruited across the state. In 1970, Morgan became the first African American in Colorado to umpire a state high school tournament.

A retired U.S. Postal Service worker, Morgan lives with his wife Claudia in Colorado Springs. They have three children and two grandchildren.