

Joe Morgan  
Inducted October 30, 2004

Joe Morgan, without realizing and who – to this day – won't take credit, paved the way for blacks in sports in Colorado Springs. Morgan, now 77, attended Colorado Springs High School where, except for track and field, blacks weren't allowed to try out for sports.

Morgan dealt with the rules of the time through high school, but in 1948, two years out of high school and returning to Colorado Springs after being in the infantry, Morgan and some friends got together to play ball. Soon, the team was playing at a semi-pro level and called themselves the Brown Bombers. They were an all-black team in an all-white league that drew crowds.

In 1949 and 1950 the Brown Bombers won the Colorado Springs Championship at Memorial Park. One year later, faced with the Korean War, a new semi-pro team in the area, jobs and families, the team 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 the state and was being recruited across the state. In 1970, Morgan became the first black to umpire a High School State Championship.

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