



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE
RESERVATION

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Colville Tribal Chairman Congratulates Colville Winners of “Champion of Champions”

(Nespelem, WA)—Rodney Cawston, Chairman of the Colville Business Council, today congratulated the Colville team “Northwest Express” and its jockeys, winners of the “Champion of Champions” 2018 Indian Relay. The race was held September 23 in Walla Walla, WA.

“The final seconds of the relay race could not have been more exciting, with Matthew Pakootas, Jr., and his horse, Soaring Eagle, crossing the finish line literally inches ahead of the second-place team,” Cawston said. “The Colville Business Council is extremely proud of these young tribal riders, and acknowledges the victory of the entire team of Edward Marchand, Loren Marchand, Arnold Abrahamson and of course, Matthew Pakootas. These young men are a credit to the culture and traditions of the Colville Tribes.”

Cawston noted that Colville riders have been well known for its expert horsemanship for centuries.

This is the second straight year, and the fourth time since 2014, that a Team from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation has won the Champion of Champions race.

In addition to Northwest Express, other Colville teams racing at Walla Walla were Abrahamson Relay, Grizzly Mountain, Cayuse Express, Omak Express and Arrow Lakes Express.

“It is so important for our youth to practice our tribal traditions, keeping our culture alive and thriving,” Cawston said. “We commend these fine riders and their horses for such an impressive victory.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,520 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The tribes, commonly known by English and French names, are: the Colville, the Nespelem, the San Poil, the Arrow Lakes, the Palus, the Wenatchi (Wenatchee), the Chelan, the Entiat, the Methow, the southern Okanogan, the Moses Columbia and the Nez Perce of Chief Joseph's Bands.