



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Colville Tribes Announces Horse Nations Indian Relay Council Partnership

Nespelem, WA-- On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, it is with great pride the Colville Business Council announces a partnership with the Horse Nations Indian Relay Council in the 2019 Indian Relay Racing season. We look forward to all the HNIRC accredited races in the 2019 Tour of Champions and, the most prestigious Indian Relay Race in the Americas, the Championship of Champions, which will be held once again at Walla Walla, WA.

During the 2018 Indian Relay horse racing season, we at the Colville Confederated Tribes were both proud and thankful. We witnessed one of our own teams, Northwest Express, win Indian Relay's most coveted Championship of Champions with horses Merv, Smoke Dog and Soarin, ridden by the talented Mathew Pakootas Jr., and supported by holder Loren Marchand, team mugger Edward Marchand and the team catcher Arnold Abrahamson. The 2018 Championship of Champions was hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Walla Walla.

"Those who attended this Championship Indian Relay race, witnessed 40 teams from throughout the United States and Canada participate in this very memorable event," said Colville Tribal Chairman Rodney Cawston today. "We saw many quality horses and talented riders giving their all. There were heart-pounding stretch battles, painful losses and horses and jockeys taking terrifying spills. There is an exciting element of risk with each race."

Indian Relay Horse Racing is quite the sport according to Mr. Cawston. "It's exciting to watch in person. It is always enjoyable watching the horse, rider, and their team members work together. The essence of this effective teamwork reveals itself clearly in the post-win evaluation after each race. Although it's the horse and jockey that get over the line, there is a lot more that goes on behind the scenes toward winning these races. It's a lot of work from developing racing strategies

to pre-training regimes, transporting horses and feed over hundreds of miles during the racing season. It is positive to see so many friends and family members supporting their teams."

Horse racing has been a long-standing tradition throughout Indian Country for hundreds of years. Indian people have always been magnificent riders as well as horse breeders. "It was an honor to see our very own Tribal member, Mane Pakootas, selected for the 2018 Kirby White Hawk Determination award. We cherish our teams that represent the Colville Tribes: Little Grizzly Mountain, Little Abrahamson Express, Grizzly Mountain, Arrow Lakes Express, Cayuse Express, Abrahamson Relay, Omak Express, the Northwest Express and all new or uprising teams", said Cawston today. HNIRC President, Calvin Ghost Bear says, "There has always been great teams in the Northwest. For many years those teams traveled out of their area to compete in the Championship event. In fact, in the 2017 Championship of Champions, Colville's own Abrahamson Relay, traveled to Montana to take home the win. HNIRC is very happy with the support we've received in moving the event to Washington."

"With this upcoming 2019 horse racing season, let's encourage our Indian Relay Teams by attending one of the scheduled horse racing events, our riders and their team members need to know that their hard work and efforts matter! I would especially like to encourage everyone to attend the races we host on behalf the Colville Tribes: the Omak Stampede and World Famous Suicide Race in Omak, WA always the 2nd Weekend in August; the NCW District Fair in Waterville, WA August 24th-25th; The Republic County Fair August 31st- September 2nd; The Okanogan County Fair in Omak, WA September 7th-8th and, the most coveted race of the year, the Championship of Champions scheduled in Walla Walla, WA, September 20th-22nd", says Cawston.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,535 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.



Northwest Express, rider Mathew Pakootas Jr.



Mane Pakootas, 2018 Kirby White Hawk Determination Award