

Spokane Indians Baseball Organization share great partnership with the Spokane Tribe of Indians
Senior Vice-Chairman Otto Klein committed to honoring the Native Americans that the City of Spokane was named after



Vice-Chairman Otto Klein

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 Photos for RP/Monica L. Peone

Spokane, WA – Senior Vice-Chairman Otto Klein is committed to working with the Tribe that his baseball franchise is named after. “We are named after the first inhabitants of this area. We are better telling their stories and ours together.” Klein stated. “The Spokane Tribe has influences throughout the park. It’s not just about sports, it’s about family.” The Spokane Indians Baseball organization strives to have a clean, wholesome and safe family environment. The costs are kept low so that it is affordable to those who want to bring their families to the park for a day of fun sharing the American Pastime.

The Tribal influences that are throughout the park include but are not limited to: feathers that are on different buildings. Klein worked with the Spokane Tribal Language Department to use Salish words for different areas that are within the park.

For Otto, he has dedicated his efforts for the franchise to mature. Most significant is the jersey with the Salish logo. “Everything has been built on the foundation, this partnership is different.” Otto commented “What makes us different makes us special. We embrace the differences. In 2006 we did a rebranding; I believe that imagery is important. We understand we’re leaders as community activists. It is important to include the Salish name for the people we are named after. We have home and away jerseys and regionally this shares a story. We’re about the Spokane Tribe and we want the imagery to show that”

Native Culture Night is an annual event where the goal is to continue with Tribal engagement. Two times a year Otto meets with the Spokane Tribal Council and the four specific questions he asks are; how are you, what is important to you, what is going on in your world, and how can we help?

“We understand the partnership we have and we take a lot of pride in this organization. We look into the future to better the message on opportunities for Tribal members. There are jobs available, we would love to see a tribal member in one of the positions of sports marketing, full time sales, etc.... there is a lot of job opportunities.” Klein reflected.

Klein lead the way with the Redband Campaign, this was pivotal in changing

the name from Glover Field to Redband Park. The Spokane City Parks & Recreation’s Park Board voted unanimously to rename Glover Field and Peaceful Valley Riverwalk to Redband Park, in honor of the Redband Rainbow Trout that spawn in the area. They are a beautiful and important species, and were once part of the primary food source for the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

The proposal to name the area was made by the Spokane Indians Baseball team with support from the Spokane Tribe of Indians and Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Council.

The renaming is intended to promote conservation of the Spokane River, and bring awareness to the Redband trout population. The Spokane Indians Baseball Club has established a fund to help promote educational and conservation activities in the area. Parks and Recreation envisions educational signs to help visitors learn about the important fish and habitat. [1]

Red Band is in reference to the Redband Trout are subspecies of the rainbow trout and exist in two well-defined geographic regions. The Columbia River Redband Trout is found in Montana, Washington, and Idaho. The Redband Trout is similar in appearance to the rainbow trout but has larger, more rounded spots and parr marks that remain into adulthood. They generally grow larger than 10 inches. Redband Trout that live in streams tend to have profuse large spots over their bodies and fins (except pectoral) and frequently have an orange cutthroat mark under the jaws. They have a rosy red stripe along lateral line to a brick red lateral band (especially in spawning males) and tints of yellow or orange along the ventral region. Gill covers can also be brilliant red. [2]

What is most significant is that Otto Klein impresses upon the fact that they have worked to honor the integrity and culture that is of the Spokane Tribe of Indians the Native Americans who were here before any settlers came to this area. The Spokane Tribe is who the city and the baseball team are named after, which he believes is important for others to understand and be respectful of.

- 1 <https://my.spokane-city.org/parksrec/news/2018/07/06/glover-field-park-peaceful-valley-riverwalk-renamed-to-redband-park/>
- 2 <http://westernnativetrout.org/redband-trout/>



Salish Jersey



One of the many markers that give history regarding the Spokane Tribe of Indians

