

## Racing for a reason

### WHITMORE COMBINES XTERRA SUCCESS WITH FUNDRAISING

At age 26 and with only a couple seasons of multisport and mountain biking experience under her belt, 2003 Xterra Pro Points Series winner Jaimie Whitmore is having a breakthrough year in endurance sports. She started the season by winning Xterra Saipan by over 10 minutes, and then she topped the fields at Xterras in Keystone and Lake Tahoe.

Furthermore, she sat in 12th place and was the highest-ranked pro rookie in the 2002 NORBA series until a DNF in the finals pushed her back to 18th. She credits her husband, Courtney, for teaching her how to mountain bike. He used the full-submersion method: Find the hardest stuff to ride and keep riding it until you don't fall.

Those fleet feet of hers were developed running on scholarship at Cal State Northridge, cranking a 17:40 PR for the 5000 and a 36:10 for the 10,000. However, she admits the swim can be a bit of a mental challenge.

"I hate open-water swimming when I'm by myself. It absolutely terrifies me," says Whitmore. "On race day, though, I'm in race mode and I figure there are enough people that if something comes someone else is going to get it before me."

If you were at the Xterra USA Championship in Lake Tahoe on September 22, you probably noticed a K2 bike frame as well as equipment from Michelin, Fleet Feet Sports, Clif Bar, Zeal, Bell Helmets and American River Bikes being raffled off.

Organized by Whitmore and her husband in cooperation with Xterra organizers, TEAM Unlimited, the raffle money went to researching a cure for Huntington's disease, a hereditary, degenerative brain disorder that affects 250,000 Americans, including Whitmore's sister-in-law.

Whitmore hopes to have donation boxes and more raffles at future races. She also will be trying to establish a Huntington's disease fund in

▶ Whitmore is organizing raffles at Xterra events to benefit Huntington's disease research.



cooperation with her sponsors next year.

If you would like to make a donation, send a check made out to: HDSA (Huntington's Disease Society of America) to HDSA, 3940 Industrial Blvd., Suite 100-D, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Be sure to write "Race for Research" or "Jaimie" on the check and envelope. Or, contact Whitmore at [gutzzytrigirl@attbi.com](mailto:gutzzytrigirl@attbi.com). — BY SCOTT SCHUMAKER