

XTERRA FEMALE TRIATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Jamie Whitmore - USA

The bubbly Elk Grove, Calif. resident and expert cross country mountain biker opted to do Xterra Tahoe in 2001 since it was near her Sacramento-area home. She entered as an amateur and took second overall—pros included. So husband Courtney Cardenas said, “you’re doing Xterra.”

“I had a sneaky suspicion with my strong running background and my progression on the mountain bike that I could be good at this,” Whitmore admitted.

In '02 she had a full plate: Xterra and pro NORBA mountain biking duties. She ended up being one of the top rookie NORBA pros—impressive enough. But her sophomore Xterra season was stellar, with three Xterra wins: at the Xterra opener in Saipan, the Xterra Central Championship and the USA

Championship in Lake Tahoe. Add a second-place finish at the West Championships in Half Moon Bay and it all added up to her first Xterra Pro Points Series title. Who says there’s a sophomore jinx?

In fact, the only stroke of bad luck the 26-year-old had all season came when she DNF’d to a snapped seatpost at Xterra East Championship in Richmond, Va. “My husband asked ‘what’s up, why aren’t you riding?’ I threw my seat and post at him and said ‘this, this is why!’ He’d never seen me that fired up!” Despite bonking, Whitmore scored a runner-up finish at the Maui World Championships to crown her season. “There’s comfort in knowing on a bad day, I took second in Maui,” she said. “Not having the world championship title makes me want to go harder. I still have more to accomplish.”