

Linsey Corbin

Linsey Corbin stormed into the public eye with a fifth-place finish at the 2008 Ironman World Championship, staking her claim as a long-course force to be reckoned with. In 2010, Corbin earned her first Ironman title in Coeur d'Alene, followed by a second-place finish at Ironman Arizona. Corbin proudly makes her home in Missoula, Mont., with her husband, Chris, their golden retriever, Madison, and equally impressive collections of bicycles and fly-fishing rods. Look out for her at this year's Kona contest.



Bloomer blunder: When I started training for triathlon, I showed up to my first group trainer workout with red-and-white-striped Tommy Hilfiger underwear on underneath my bike shorts. The shorts were pretty see-through and the guys behind me were snickering the whole time.

We still call it the “man cave”: We don't have a garage; we just have a studio out back. When we bought our house, Chris said, “Cool, let's make it my man cave. I can put all my fly rods in there and we can get a fridge for beer.” But then we ended up remodeling it, putting in hardwood floors and heat and windows. The bikes and a treadmill went in and slowly the fly-fishing table had to be moved out. One day Chris reached for a beer and it had been replaced with a sports drink.

Easily impressed: Chris was actually the dishwasher at my college sorority. He was in the fraternity down the street. He was a Southern gentleman, so when he rang the doorbell for our first date and I saw that he had flowers I thought, “Ooh, we're going somewhere fancy!” He took me to Cracker Barrel. He didn't even have to open the menu—he already knew he wanted Uncle Herschel's Favorite. That was 11 years ago.

Not a-peeling: I can't eat bananas. My mom used to give me one a day from the time I started eating. Then when I was 4, all of a sudden I just started puking them back up. Chris can't even eat them in the same room as me. I just start gagging.

Double decade deprivation: After 20 years as a vegetarian, the first meat I had was bacon. It was pretty awesome. I think you forget how limited you are when you don't eat meat and then all of a sudden a whole new door of opportunities opens. I don't have to order the same five things when we eat out anymore. Now every Sunday we have steak night at our house—a big glass of red wine and a big thick steak. I mean, we live in Montana!

Missoula Miss: Other athletes come here to train—Hillary Biscay and Maik Twelsiek came, Luke and Amanda McKenzie came—and their reactions are always, “Where are all the people?” There's definitely a lot of open space. Yesterday I rode my bike a hundred miles and didn't have one stop sign or stoplight. But you have to be really tough. You have crazy weather conditions. It's really gritty, but that's part of my personality as well.

//HOLLY BENNETT