

Keeping up with the...

# Quad squad



RICH BANICK / TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At top, Chris Yarns holds the hand of his newborn daughter, Tina Elizabeth Yarns. Above, Amy Yarns cradles Rhys Jenkins Yarns as her son, Ross, 7, looks on.

## Three boys, girl developing personalities, family says

By Marita Lowman  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

In one of her first acts of trust, Tiana Elizabeth curled her long slender fingers around her father's thick one and held on.

Her tiny lips pursed, and for just a second or two, she opened one curious eye.

Someday, she and her three brothers, all born Fri-

day to Amy and Chris Yarns, will look at the pictures news photographers took of them in Community Medical Center's neonatal unit Monday and understand what all the fuss was about.

But at that moment, the most important thing was finding their comfort zone in a new world of unfamiliar light and sound and touch.

Tiana and brothers Chase Christopher, Rhys Jenkins and Trey Donald are the first set of quadruplets born in this area.

For Tiana's part, the dark-haired, full-faced 3½-pound baby girl settled comfortably into the crook of her father's left arm, stole his heart and

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made it clear it would be this way for a long, long time.

"She's going to be spoiled," Mr. Yarns said with a grin. "She'll probably be the boss, too."

Each baby has distinct features and personality, the parents and neonatal nurses agreed.

Rhys, 3 pounds 12 ounces and sporting a soft layette with a Road Runner cartoon design, scrunched his face and wriggled his little body as his mom held him and as big brothers Blaise, 10, and Ross, 7, rubbed their fingers along his hands and cheeks.

Rhys, who spent his first day on a ventilator, "is in excellent shape now," his mother said.

So is Chase. At a lean 2 pounds 6 ounces, he is the smallest of the four but the one who adapted most quickly to his new environment.

"He's got a definite personality," his dad said. "He's awake a lot, and he makes all kinds of facial expressions."

Chase was a bit crowded in Mrs. Yarn's womb and felt the most stress during the pregnancy. Because he had to work harder then, doctors told the Yarnses, he was able to adapt more readily to the new stresses.

Trey, on the other hand, had a comfortable space under his mother's ribs before birth but is adjusting slowly to being on his own. He is still hooked to a ventilator, but doctors said they may be able to remove it today.

"He's needed a little extra attention. But he's feisty," nurse Alisa French said.

The quadruplets will remain hospitalized for close to a month.

Mrs. Yarns, 31, who delivered by Caesarean section, should go home today but will make many appearances at the hospital until the babies are discharged.

She and her husband, a Clarks Summit police officer, are overjoyed.

"I'm so glad they're all OK," Mr. Yarns said.