

# South Florida Sun-Sentinel

January 20, 2007

## Local

### Four stars

The Fultons just wanted one baby. Now they have a few more.



**SURPRISING NEWS:** Michael and Catherine Fulton tried to have a baby without success for years. And when they heard they were going to have quadruplets? "Michael walked out of the room and he was like, 'I need a drink,'" Catherine Fulton said. Staff photo/Mark Randall

WEST PALM BEACH • Catherine and Michael Fulton's house is stocked with more than 4,000 diapers, and they are going to need every single one of them.

The Fultons just had quadruplets.

"We just wanted one baby," the new mother said. "Four was kind of overwhelming, but it is a blessing. We are very excited that we have our family all together and they are healthy."

After trying unsuccessfully for years to get pregnant, Fulton gave birth to three girls and one boy about 8:30 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Doctors say the babies are very healthy because their mother did not deliver until the end of her 33rd week, almost a month later than most women carrying quadruplets give birth. The Fultons live in Loxahatchee Groves.

Avery and Lindsey are identical, and they weigh 3 pounds, 6.5 ounces and 3 pounds, 2.8 ounces, respectively. Camryn is the largest at 4 pounds, 7 ounces and Brendan weighs 4 pounds, 3.5 ounces.

In 2004, 117 sets of quadruplets were born in the United States. Only 8 percent of the cases are combinations of identical and fraternal twins. The odds of having quadruplets are one in 600,000 to 800,000, according to various studies. The chances increase significantly in cases of *in vitro* fertilization.

"We had to go through *in vitro* fertilization to get pregnant, and each procedure that we underwent never took. Each time they told me we weren't pregnant," Catherine Fulton, 36, said. "When we finally found out that we were pregnant we were out of town and we didn't believe them."

It did not take long for Catherine Fulton to become a believer.

An initial ultrasound showed three fetuses, but doctors did not think all three would make it to term. A week later, an ultrasound showed that one fetus had split and Catherine was pregnant with quadruplets.

"Michael walked out of the room and he was like, 'I need a drink,'" she said.

The delivery room for the Fultons was a busy place with at least 13 doctors, nurses and

technicians. The babies were delivered via Caesarean section, as is the case for most multiple birth deliveries.

A SPECIAL DELIVERY IN WEST PALM BEACH



Lindsey, girl

Avery, girl

Camryn, girl

Brendan, boy

## Couple has quadruplets

"This is a remarkable situation. She is 33 weeks and normally the age is 29 weeks," Dr. Gary M. Cohen said.

All four babies are in incubators in the neonatal intensive care unit. The two smallest are also the healthiest, and at no point did they need breathing assistance. Camryn and Brendan will require oxygen assistance for a few days. Doctors expect the babies should be able to go home in about three to four weeks.

The maternity ward at St. Mary's was a busy place on Wednesday: a set of triplets and a set of twins were also born.

Michael Fulton, 40, also has an 11-year-old son, Dustin.

"I think he is pretty startled right now," the father said. "Originally he wanted to hold his brother, Brendan, first but Lindsey opened her eyes and

smiled at him, so he was like, 'Oh, I want to hold her first!'"

The Fultons are already imagining their kids' futures: Mom said she looks forward to the day when the four are married; Dad hopes he has four Florida State freshmen.

Catherine's pregnancy had almost no complications. She did not enter the hospital until two days before her delivery.

"People never expected that I had four babies in my belly because I looked like I was having twins," she said. "People were always like, 'Oh, are you due tomorrow?' I would say, 'No, I'm due in March.'"

Clips From:

**O'CONNELL  
&  
GOLDBERG**