



**BORN TO**

**BOUNCE**



**HEADS TURNED** and social media went crazy when the country discovered Jaden Newman, the 9-year-old female basketball prodigy recruited by the University of Miami Hurricanes in June.

They may be new to us, but the Newman household is no stranger to Spalding.

Dubbed “the modern-day Reggie and Cheryl Miller” by their family, Jaden and her older brother Julian are both national basketball sensations who play at the high school level at Downey Christian School in Orlando. Julian, 12, seized media attention last year as

a fifth-grader playing for his high school varsity team, averaging 18 points a game.

Julian appreciates the support he gets from his family. “They come to all of my games,” he said. “They cheer for me and they tell me to keep working hard.”

And while some shrink from the spotlight, Jaden insists the attention and competition aren’t intimidating. “I don’t get scared, because I’ve been playing older people my whole life,” Jaden said. The fourth-grader has goals far bigger than her competitors, she confides. “I want to be the first girl to go to the NBA.”

We wouldn't be shocked to see her reach that goal. After all, she and her brother hail from a family of hoopers. Parents Jamie and Vivian Newman met while playing basketball for rival teams in high school, so "it's only right to have two basketball babies," said father Jamie. Both are very proud of their children's accomplishments. "They're both really blessed. They put God first and that's what happens," Jamie said.

