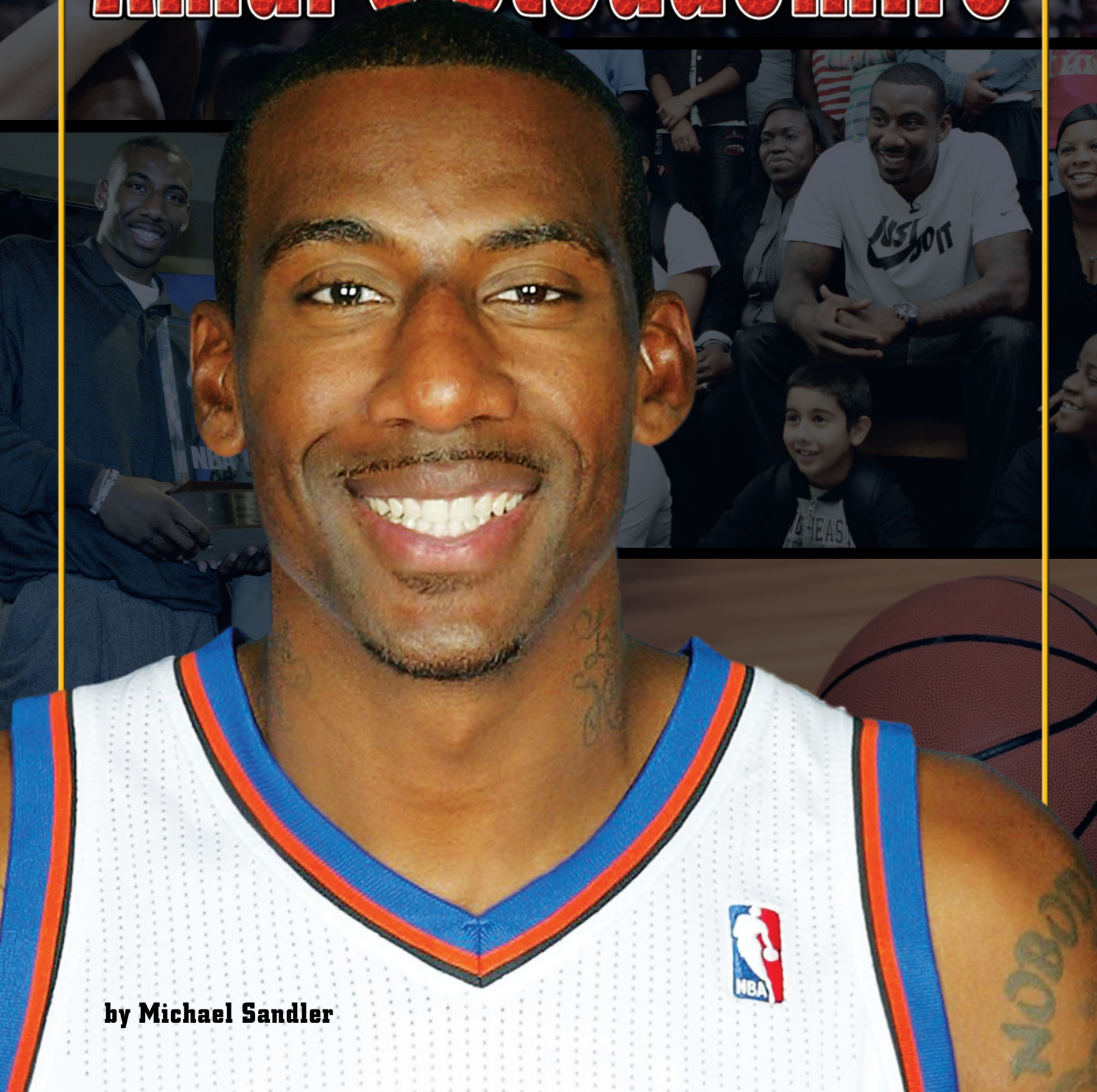




Amar'e Stoudemire



by Michael Sandler

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Amazing Amar'e

As the last seconds ticked down on the clock during the game against the Denver Nuggets on December 12, 2010, New York Knicks fans rose from their seats to cheer. Their hero, power **forward** Amar'e Stoudemire, had done it again, scoring 30 points or more for the eighth straight game! More important, Amar'e had led the Knicks to an eighth straight win, a 129–125 defeat against the Nuggets.

Late in the game when it really counted, Amar'e had been amazing. During one third-quarter stretch, he scored 12 **consecutive** points. He hit a short **jumper**, two perfect free throws, a **layup**, a monstrous slam dunk, and two more jump shots to finish the 12-point run. Then in the fourth quarter, he hit five more shots. After the win, Amar'e talked excitedly about his team's potential. "The sky's the limit," he said.

Amar'e joined the New York Knicks in the 2010–2011 season and quickly became a fan favorite.





The win over the Nuggets on December 12, 2010, was also the New York Knicks' 13th victory in 14 games. Here, Amar'e (right) shoots against the Nuggets.

Amar'e Stoudemire's eight straight games with 30 or more points set a new Knicks record.

A Father's Words

"The sky's the limit" are words that Amar'e had once heard directed at him. They were the last words his father, Hazell, had said to him before he died of a heart attack when Amar'e was just 12 years old.

While Hazell had great confidence in his son's **potential**, achieving it would be a struggle for young Amar'e. His father's death was just one difficulty he had to overcome while growing up in central Florida. For example, Amar'e's family was very poor and they lived in a neighborhood filled with crime and drugs. His mother and his older brother were often in trouble with the law. After his father's death, Amar'e bounced around from home to home. Sometimes he lived with his basketball coaches while his mother was in prison.

Amar'e didn't play much basketball as a small child. His father was a football coach, and football was Amar'e's favorite sport. He didn't play organized basketball until eighth grade.



A 21-year-old Amar'e poses for a photo with his mother.



Amar'e (right) with his younger brother Marwan

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Amar'e Stoudemire

Amar'e Stoudemire overcame a difficult childhood to reach NBA stardom with the Phoenix Suns. Then, after eight sensational seasons with the team, Amar'e joined the New York Knicks in 2010. In New York, he quickly turned around a struggling team and led the Knicks into the playoffs. Amar'e didn't just bring a winning attitude to his new city; he also brought his commitment to helping others. His charity, the Amar'e Stoudemire Foundation, gives a helping hand to children in need. Amar'e has worked hard in Phoenix, New York, and even West Africa to try to help kids overcome hardships. Follow Amar'e through the biggest moments of his career on and off the court to see how this champion makes a difference.

Kevin Durant

Amar'e Stoudemire

Derrick Rose

Dwyane Wade

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