Baptist team member honored by Memphis Grizzlies

Michael Wynn has been a buyer in Baptist’s supply chain department for the last four years. He has three young sons and a daughter. If that wasn’t enough, he spent a four-year term, from 2014-2018, as the director of athletic ministries at New Bethel Church in Germantown, where he oversaw and implanted the Junior Grizzlies program with young basketball players.

The Junior Grizzlies is a program sponsored with our local NBA team, the Memphis Grizzles. Among its benefits includes skill development via practices and games, Grizzlies-branded uniforms and basketballs and a certificate of achievement signed by a Memphis Grizzlies player.

Each year, New Bethel basketball players had the opportunity to play a short game during a Memphis Grizzlies game halftime, high -five Memphis Grizzlies as they left the court or stand with players during the National Anthem.

“All of the experiences were very exciting for the players and their families,” said Wynn. “But I really felt honored when I was able to coach my players during the halftime games on the Memphis Grizzlies court.”

But what drew Wynn to the program was that the excitement over the Grizzlies brought kids to church.

“While we were teaching the fundamentals of basketball and introducing kids to the game, we were doing so in a Christ-centered environment,” said Wynn. “We used sports as the tool to bring kids into church.”

He played all sports as a kid but especially enjoyed basketball. When he got the opportunity to do his own ministry through sports, it made sense.

Wynn had players, boys and girls, ranging from 4-13 year-olds. At any one time, he had up to 115 players participating. New Bethel had so many players that they had three divisions with four teams each.

When Wynn came to the end of his director of athletic ministries term, the Memphis Grizzlies honored him during the halftime of the January 25 game vs. the Sacramento Kings. He was given a plaque and a jersey signed by all the Grizzlies players.