

[Home](#) | [STLtoday](#) | [St. Louis' Best Bridal](#) | [Ladue News](#) | [Click here to make SJ Online your homepage](#)

[Get Your Suburban Journals Subscription Here](#) or call 1-888-755-2879

 

advanced search



**St. Louis Metropolitan Area and surrounding Missouri and Illinois counties**

[home](#) | [jefferson county](#) | [madison](#) | [monroe county](#) | [north](#) | [south](#) | [st. charles county](#) | [st. clair](#) | [warren cou](#)

[classifieds](#) | [print ads](#) | [recent home sales](#) | [obits](#) | [search archives](#) | [photo galleries](#) | [podcasts](#) | [SJ Health](#)

[EMAIL](#) [PRINT](#) [WRITE LETTER TO EDITOR](#)

[Comment](#) No comments posted.

## BOYS BASKETBALL: A year after testing the waters, Ludwig dives in

### Junior grows into key role with Hawks

**By Jerome Boettcher**

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 1:09 PM CST

[ShareThis](#)

[vote now](#)

As a sophomore, Tyler Ludwig at times appeared timid and shy to his coach, Chris O'Connell.

Not only was he just a sophomore on a senior-laden Hillsboro bunch, but he was getting his first dose of varsity experience during a breakout season for the Hawks. Hillsboro finished the 2008-09 campaign with an impressive 23-5 record, a Jefferson County Conference championship and was knocked out of the postseason by the eventual Class 4 state champ Borgia.

So, yes, Ludwig might have appeared starry-eyed and hesitant from time to time. But for good reason.

**P**  
Are you planning a w  
 We're going some  
 We're going to hit  
 We're going to sta



"I think he felt a little shy at first being the lone sophomore with an otherwise senior crew," O'Connell said. "He sort of maybe struggled to know when and where to exert himself."

O'Connell played Ludwig in every game for a reason - he was going to lose six seniors at the end of the year. He knew, the next season as a junior, the 6-foot-2 guard would have to be one of his go-to guys.

### Photo Galleries | Prep Sports Photos

"We thought it was a great opportunity on a very experienced team to include him in that mix last year," O'Connell said. "I thought it was imperative to get him that learning curve last year so he could hit the ground running this year. For the most part, he has."



RICK GRAEFE PHOTO Seckman defenders Jordan Bell, left, and Marc Vislasky close in on Tyler Ludwig of Hillsboro during a non-league game last week at Seckman.

This season, Ludwig has indeed broken out of his shell - averaging 13.6 points in 11 games. Only senior forward Jarrod Huskey (15.7 points per game) has scored more for the Hawks, who were 7-4 heading into their league opener against Festus last Friday.

In fact, a couple weeks ago against Viburnum in a tournament at Park Hills Central, Ludwig had one of his best games so far. He scored a career-high 23 points, had four assists and six steals in a Hillsboro win.

"Coach is telling me to be aggressive, so that is what I am going to be doing," he said. "I worked pretty hard (in the offseason to become a starter). I guess it is paying off this year."

Ludwig, who also plays golf for the Hawks, has played basketball for nearly 12 years. But this season he is really showing off his potential, especially on offense.

He has attempted more shots (133) than anyone on the team, hitting 40 percent if his field goal attempts and leads the Hawks from 3-point range, where he is seven for 20.

"He's our toughest assignment for the other team because you have to close him out, but he's the most capable of driving by you," O'Connell said. "He's getting better at finishing around the basket. So he's got a pretty diverse game. He's not just a jump shooter."

And he's not just a scorer, either.

The 17-year-old has grabbed nearly five rebounds a game, is second on the team with 28 assists and - sitting at the top of Hillsboro's 1-3-1 zone defense - he leads the team with 31 steals.

"He probably leads in deflections if that were kept," O'Connell said. "He is a very active defender."

Ludwig, however, isn't getting complacent after his good start.

"Really, I think I could probably score a little more. I just haven't played like a full game yet but I've been trying," he said. "I don't know, maybe, I'll break out somewhere (and) have a good game."

O'Connell doesn't think the issue is scoring. The Hillsboro coach sees Ludwig as a well-rounded player who sometimes needs to be reminded of his talent level.

"There is still a lot of room for him to grow into," he said. "Sometimes I have to convince him how good he really is. He can be unselfish to a fault. When Tyler is involved that is paramount to our success."

Unselfish? Maybe.

But shy? Timid? Not anymore.

A new adjective fits Tyler Ludwig.

"He's pretty tough," O'Connell said.

## Prep Sports News | Prep Sports Photos

[ShareThis](#)

[vote now](#)

### Most Popular

- St. Ann takes revenue hit with Macy's closing
- Haiti quake survivor: 'I really thought I was going to die'
- Nursing home's new owners: 'falls on us to fix' problems
- 6 arrested in meth lab bust in Wright City
- Flooded neighbors see frozen future in Madison County rule

### Most Commented

- St. Charles council presses luck in Vegas
- Cottleville mayor makes medical marijuana his mission
- Collinsville considers outsourcing animal shelter operator
- Receipts raise questions about reimbursements, alcohol, spouses
- POKIN AROUND: Coming this August: Cynthia Davis vs. Scott

### Editor's Picks

Rupp

## Comments

---

No comments posted.

You need to [log in](#) to post a comment.

### Regions:

[Jefferson County](#)  
[Madison County](#)  
[Monroe County](#)  
[North County](#)  
[South County](#)  
[St. Charles County](#)  
[St. Clair County](#)  
[Warren County](#)  
[West County](#)

### Information:

[About Us](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Archives](#)  
[Lee Careers](#)  
[Advertise With Us](#)  
[Terms of Service](#)  
[Privacy](#)

### Other Links:

[STLtoday](#)  
[Ladue News](#)  
[St. Louis Best Bridal](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Amp For Teens](#)  
[Sports Photos](#)  
[What Did It Sell For?](#)  
[Old Newsboys](#)  
[Free Toolbar](#)