

LONGO, Chris (can't)

"I would be disappointed if I wasn't picked Saturday. If I'm not taken I'll just go back and try and prove myself."

Longo credits Petes coach Dick Todd with teaching him a lot about the game but he's quick to point out that Iker, and Kingston head coach Kevin Abrams, should get plenty of credit for his development as well.

"I've got to give Terry and Kevin a lot of the credit. They basically like to play the same kind of game as we did in Peterborough—play offence but also be concerned about your defence and own end of the rink."

Longo, at just under six feet tall and weighing in at 185 pounds, isn't considered big by NHL standards, but he's got time to work on his strength.

"It's not so much more size as it is strength that I need. I'll be working on that this summer," says Longo.

He's the type of player most teams would like to have. He can get his share of poms but he can also prevent them. He likes to work the boards and corners, places where not all players are comfortable.

"That's always been my game—it's just the way I play.

I tried to get away from that style a bit this year and Dick (Todd) called me into his office and told me to 'stick to my game'. I'm not an overly finesse type of player," says Longo.

Longo admits he's still got plenty to learn about the game of hockey. When he gets drafted Saturday he knows he'll be back plying his trade with the Petes next season.

"It'll be an honor just to have a team draft me," he says.

Longo and his parents made the trip to Vancouver Thursday. By 3 p.m. tomorrow Longo should know which one of the 21-NHL teams he may some day be playing for.

"Just to have any team pick me will really be a thrill." He says.



CHRIS TENDS TO THE LONGO FAMILY POOL

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