

Heading into the 2011 NHL Draft, hockey pundits loved Dougie Hamilton's size and his skating ability. And 12 goals and 58 points in 67 OHL games for a 17-year old defensemen, was pretty intoxicating too.

The knock on the six-foot-four, St. Catharines native was his decision making. Did we mention he picked up 46 helpers in an OHL season before his 18th birthday? But it couldn't have been all bad and Niagara IceDogs General Manager and Head Coach Marty Williamson agrees. And so did Boston Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli, who selected Hamilton ninth overall. But Williamson told PROSPECT PRESCRIPTION that there was room for improvement.

All About Dougie

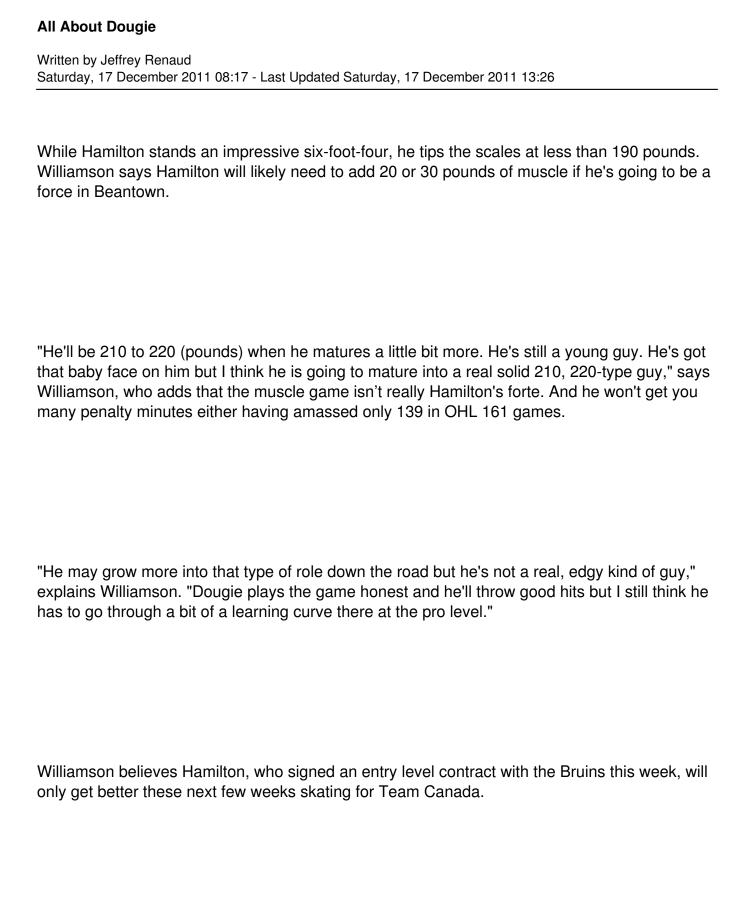
Written by Jeffrey Renaud Saturday, 17 December 2011 08:17 - Last Updated Saturday, 17 December 2011 13:26

"The difference between this year and last year is that his decision making is much, much better. Last year, some people questioned some of the decisions he made and maybe it didn't always look like he had good offensive instincts but I think this year he is showing that he did have good offensive instincts, he just needed to work on his timing a little bit more," says Williamson, who coached his 500th OHL game last month. "But this year, his timing is rock on. He's making really good decisions, when to come in, where to come in, and obviously our power play is going very well and he's a big part of that."

Hamilton, who already has 12 goals and 45 points in 30 games this season, was named to Canada's world junior team this week, alongside his brother Freddie and two other IceDogs Ryan Strome and Mark Visentin, but Williamson isn't sure if he'll be running the powerplay in Calgary and Edmonton. Nor is he sure that will be his role in the NHL.

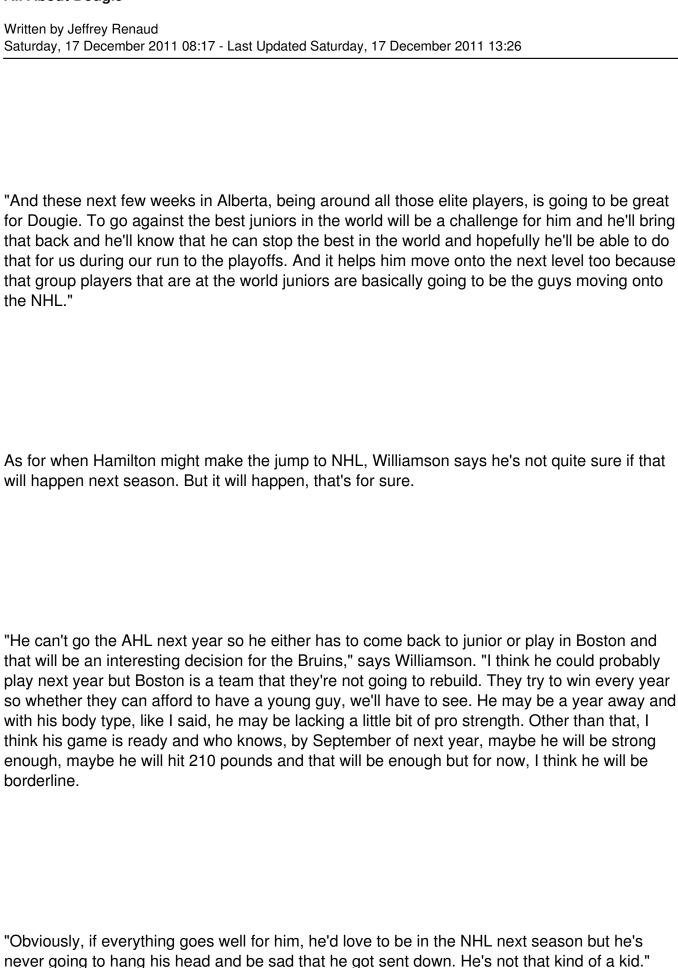
"The way the game is now, I don't know that he's a pure powerplay guy but he definitely has the ability to be a second-unit guy or a shooter on the first unit," offers Williamson. "But who knows? I really think the sky's the limit for him so I would hate to limit Dougle on anything right now.

"He's made the world junior team. We're not sure what role they're going to have him playing there but I could see him running the powerplay for the world junior team. He's getting better, month by month, this season and I truly believe he's blossoming into one of the best players in the league."



"These experiences are invaluable. It's similar to going to an NHL camp. Dougie came back in September with a greater appreciation of the things he needed to improve, like his timing and when to go and when not to go. He learned a lot about those types of things in Boston.

All About Dougie



All About Dougie

