

GREEKS IN THE NEWS

APOSTOLOS CHRISTOU



Twenty-three-year-old Athens native Apostolos Christou is starting his professional swimming career and is expecting big things. The backstroke specialist represented Ellas in the 2016 Rio Olympics as an individual and as a member of the relay team. 2018 was a breakthrough year for Christou, as he came home from the Mediterranean Games with 2 gold medals in the 100 backstroke and the 4x100 medley relay, 1 silver in the 4x100 free relay, and 2 bronzes in the 50 backstroke and the 200 backstroke. Two months later, at the European Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, Christou racked up his first international medal with a bronze in the 100 backstroke at a personal best 53.72. In the 200, he placed 5th, setting a Greek record at 1:57.09. Now, he's entering his prime and has signed on to join the Los Angeles Current in season 2 of the fledgling International Swimming League.

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/sports/greek-olympian-apostolos-christou-talks-los-angeles-current-isl/article/578668>

EUROLEAGUE

Six months after the last game was played, Euroleague Basketball is back! The season tipped off last weekend, and it should be a good one. While Panathinaikos and Olympiakos are the Greek entries, there are lots of Greek players on other teams, as well. Olympiakos dropped their opener, 68-67 to Zalgiris Kaunas after blowing a double-digit, second-half lead, while Panathinaikos scored a 78-76 win over Khimki Moscow Region, giving new head coach Georgios Vovoros a victory in his first game with his new squad. Nine new players, along with brand new management for Panathinaikos, signals a major change for the perennial power that is now in rebuilding mode. The

loss of star Nick Calathes (*Greece is the Word*, Vol. II) to Barcelona is a huge loss that Panathinaikos must try to get around. As for Olympiakos, they're trying to get back to the playoffs after a one-year hiatus and the addition of Kostas Sloukas will only help the veterans like Vasilis Spanoulis, Georgios Printezis, and Kostas Papanikolaou. Currently, Panathinaikos is 30-1 to win the championship, while Olympiakos is 20-1, looking up at the favorites, which are Barcelona at 3-1, CSKA Moscow at 4-1, and Real Madrid at 5-1.

<https://www.talkbasket.net/105804-the-wait-is-over-euroleague-is-back>

STONIE'S SPORTS HANDICAPPING

Going forward, every Friday we will post a new video with the upcoming picks for the weekend of College Football and the NFL. If you like the video portion of our picks, go ahead and subscribe to the channel so you can be notified whenever a new video goes up. [Today's video](#) includes a big portion of MLB Division playoff predictions to go along with the upcoming slate of NFL selections. Until next time, make sure to remember that in order to win big, you gotta bet big, and GOODLUCK2YA!

– Stonie