

GREEKS IN THE NEWS

GIANNIS ANTETOKOUNMPO

For those of you who have regularly followed this sports column, you know that NBA superstar and back-to-back Most Valuable Player Giannis “The Greek Freak” Antetokounmpo has been a regular feature. Well, he’s back in the news again after he signed a five-year contract extension to stay with the Milwaukee Bucks for a total of \$228.2 million. The super max deal for Giannis means that he will remain with Milwaukee through the 2026 season. Making \$55 million per year shouldn’t hurt his attitude, either. Here’s a screenshot of the tweet that he posted just after signing.



The only potentially bad news to come out of this is for his brother Thanasis, who also plays for the Bucks. With Milwaukee now being in luxury tax status for the foreseeable future, Thanasis may not be affordable. If Thanasis signs, we’ll keep you updated.

MARIA PREVOLARAKI

Despite the uncertainty of sports amid the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, sports has still given us some really great stories. One of them is Maria

Prevolaraki, who just won the Gold Medal for Greece in the World Women's individual wrestling 53-kilo class in Belgrade, Serbia just last week. Prevolaraki outclassed former world champion Roksana Zasina of Poland in the Gold Medal Match with a final score of 5-1. Maria's coach, Panagiotis Argoudea, got his first world champion and is now preparing Prevolaraki for the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.



EUROLEAGUE BASKETBALL UPDATE

OLYMPIACOS

After a hot start to the Euroleague season that saw Olympiacos Piraeus win 6 of their first 9 matches, the Kokkini have fallen on a rough stretch and have dropped 4 of their last 5, leaving them at 7-7 and a game behind the last playoff spot. The top 8 teams from the 18-team league will advance to the playoffs. Olympiacos got a huge win last week over Crvena Zvezda (Belgrade) before falling twice last week to Valencia Basket and Real Madrid. The loss to Valencia was only the second time Valencia has won in Piraeus since 2003 and snapped a 9-game losing streak to the Reds. Olympiacos fared much better against Real Madrid, however, sending the game into overtime, but ultimately fell short behind C Shaquille McKissic's 18 points and G Kostas Sloukas' 11. With 18 games still to play, Olympiacos knows that their time to make a move to secure a playoff spot is now.

PANATHINAIKOS

Panathinaikos Athens is in a rebuilding year and expected a rough season. So far, the Trifylli have been about as good as could be expected. Sitting at 5-9 and in 14th place, Panathinaikos came out of a four-game losing streak last month and has now won 3 of their last 5, despite dropping their last 2. Nemanja Nedovic and Ioannis Papapetrou continue to be standouts for the Trifylli, but injuries, age, and a new head coach have all contributed to the woes this season. We will continue to update you on Panathinaikos as the season wears on, so stay tuned!

STONIE'S SPORTS HANDICAPPING

For those of you who have not yet subscribed to [my YouTube channel](#), you're missing out! Last week was my best week of the season as I went 25-9 for a whopping 73.53% win rate. With NCAA Basketball ramping up big time this time of year, there will be more picks this week, but NCAA Football will take their foot off the throttle as Bowl Season Begins Monday, December 21. The NFL only has a couple of weeks left in their regular season, so by the time the Super Bowl is played in February, the weekly picks will primarily be NCAA Basketball focused. If you love football, now's the time to jump on board. [Here's the link to this week's video](#), where you'll find all you need to come out ahead. With Christmas happening on Friday this year, this coming week's video will be posted on Christmas Eve, Thursday Night. Enjoy your holiday, have a great one, and always remember that if you're gonna win big, you gotta bet big. GOODLUCK2YA!

—Stonie