

GREEKS IN THE NEWS

SOKRATIS PAPASTHOPOULOS

One of Greece's favorite sons, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, is headed back to Ellada—most notably, to Olympiacos—to resume his soccer career. Sokratis signed a \$1.46 million contract to play with Olympiacos for 3 more years. The



all-time great spent 3 seasons with AEK Athens before going to Italy for 5 years to play for Genoa and AC Milan, spending 6 years in Germany, and winding up his European tour with his past 3 years in London for Arsenal.

At 32, Sokratis still has plenty left in the tank to offer Olympiacos and the national team, for which he's been a wildly-popular midfielder since 2008. Sokratis joined the national team as then-coach Otto Rehhagel began rebuilding the team that won the European Championship in 2004, and Sokratis has been a mainstay ever since. Arsenal's club technical director said about Sokratis in his going-away press conference that he was a "model professional in every sense of the word."

DINOS MITOGLOU

A 24-year-old who stands 6' 11" and played three years of NCAA Basketball in the ACC should be enough to get some interest, right? Well, according to Matteo Andreani of La Gazzeto della Sport, that's exactly what the San Antonio Spurs are feeling with Dinos Mitoglou. From 2014-17, "the Greek Deac" averaged 9.6 points and 5.4 rebounds for Wake Forest in 96 games, leaving after

his junior season to sign a professional contract with Panathinaikos. During that time, Dinos played for the national team in the 2019 Fiba World Cup qualifiers. With his Panathinaikos deal expiring this summer, any NBA team can sign him and avoid paying a buyout to the Tryfilis. Mitoglou has averaged 8.8



ppg and 5.3 rpg in 18 minutes per game this year for Panathinaikos. [As you can see from these highlights](#), Mitoglou could be ready to make the leap to the NBA.

STONIE'S SPORTS HANDICAPPING

The stats are clear on my weekly picks this season: 61% in NCAA Football, 61% in NCAA Hoops, and 51% in the NFL. Yeah, it's safe to say the NFL hasn't been very kind to me this year. At press time for this newsletter, [the video that was posted Friday](#) has no NFL plays on it, just NCAA Hoops picks for last Saturday. If you're looking for the Super Bowl Edition of *Thoughts and Hunches*, make sure to [subscribe to my YouTube channel](#) and you'll be notified Friday evening when it's posted—or just search for “Thoughts and Hunches” in YouTube on Friday. That's the way it rolls when we have a bi-weekly newsletter and I'm doing a weekly video. Enjoy this week, enjoy the Super Bowl, and please try to check out the video on Friday. Whatever you do, remember that there's money on the streets that can't be ignored; if you're gonna win big, you gotta bet big; and GOODLUCK2YA!

—Stonie