

GREEKS IN THE NEWS

ANIKA TSAPATSARIS

Fencing may not be a sport that you're familiar with, and ten years ago Anika Tsapatsaris felt the same way. In fifth grade, Tsapatsaris engulfed herself into the sport. Now a junior at Columbia, the New Jersey native has moved to Greece and received dual citizenship. With Columbia doing all their classes online due to Covid-19, she moved to Greece, converted her basement into a gym to train, and became a competitor for both Columbia and the Greek National Team.



Tsapatsaris, an architecture major with a minor in Hellenic Studies, will be competing for Columbia, which makes the Tokyo Olympics out of the question; but Anika is keenly eyeing both the 2024 and 2028 Olympics to compete for Greece. “To even make an Olympic qualifier, to make an Olympic team would be the most incredible way of saying ‘yes, you can’ do it and there was no reason to, that’s the reason why you didn’t quit when you were 10, 11,” said Tsapatsaris. Rock on Anika! We’re all pulling for you!

KOKKINAKIS / TSITSIPAS

If it's time for the Australian Open, tennis's first major of the year, Stefanos Tsitsipas—the world's 5th-ranked player—is bound to make headlines. The 22-year-old, Athens-born Tsitsipas reached the semifinals in Melbourne two years ago and hopes to get at least that far this year. The surprise for Tsitsipas this year, however, was his second-round opponent. After dispatching Frenchman Gilles Simon quickly in the first round, Australian-Greek Thanasi Kokkinakis was up next. The 24-year-old, Adelaide-born son of Greek immigrants has reveled in the fan support he's received the last 6 years he's played in Melbourne. “Greek fans are the most passionate fans in the world,” says Kokkinakis. While the two Greeks know each other well, due to Covid restrictions, only 50% of capacity was allowed, but the green-and-gold-clad Greek fans made their presence felt as Tsitsipas downed Kokkinakis in five hard-fought sets. The 267th-ranked Kokkinakis pushed Tsitsipas to the end before succumbing 6-4 in the final set.

Following the match, Tsitsipas heaped praise on Kokkinakis by saying, “He’s a talent and has huge potential, I’m pretty sure he knows it himself, he just needs to take advantage of it and make the best out of his career. He’s a great server and has all the weapons on the baseline. Thanasi wasn’t able to play all these years due to the injuries he had and it was a big shame because we were missing someone on the tour. I’m very happy to see him back and competing at the very highest level and we’re a generation of great players.”



Tsitsipas bounced back two days later and dismantled Mikael Ymer from Sweden in straight sets. At press time, Tsitsipas was preparing for his fourth-round match against 9th seeded Italian Matteo Berrettini. All action is live on ESPN and by this coming weekend, let’s hope we see Tsitsipas playing for the Australian Open title.



STONIE’S SPORTS HANDICAPPING

With Super Bowl LV in the books, we can finally put football season to bed. While I did extremely well in NCAA football this season (62%), the NFL wasn’t exactly kind (51.7%), but just because football is over, there’s no reason to think I’m going to stop delivering content every Friday. NCAA hoops have always been my best sport and sitting at 59.3% going into the weekend has me fired up with selection Sunday only four weeks away. This is the time to jump on board and catch my plays leading up to the national championship on the first Monday in April. [This week’s video can be found here](#), and make sure to subscribe and spread the word. Nowhere else can you find someone who has consistently delivered free winners every week... DOCUMENTED. In closing, remember my three mottos:

1. There’s money on the streets that can’t be ignored.
2. If you’re gonna win big, you gotta bet big.
3. GOODLUCK2YA!

—Stonie