

Greek starlet keen on United

Greek starlet Kyriakos Papadopoulos admits he would be 'proud' to play for Manchester United, but is trying not to be distracted by transfer speculation.

Reports have claimed that United are lining up a bid to sign the 16-year-old, who currently plays for Olympiakos, in the January transfer window.

The highly-rated centre-half is unaware of any interest from United, but would be honoured to join the Premier League and European champions.

"It's an honour for me to hear that Manchester United show interest," Papadopoulos told the Greek media.

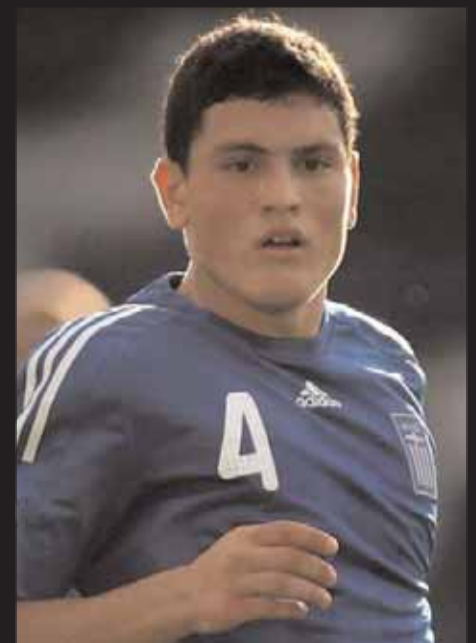
"Personally, I don't know anything official yet. I just hear the rumours. I am an Olympiakos player and I am focused on Olympiakos right now.

"I will keep working and, if anything is going to happen in the future, I will be very proud if it's going to be for Manchester United."

Not nervous

The 16-year-old also insists he is not overawed by the interest and says he would have no problems in leaving his homeland at such a young age. He added: "The fact that many European clubs have watched me in the last months doesn't make me nervous. It's a pleasure. "Is it going to be hard to leave Greece at the age of 16? Not at all.

"If a player really wants to play football out of his country, and the situation at his new club is good, I don't see a reason not to try."



Greek player commits suicide after omission from squad

ATHENS, (Reuters) - A Greek soccer player committed suicide after being left out of the squad for a domestic cup game with Olympiakos Piraeus, police said on Wednesday. The 25-year-old, Yiannis Koskiniatis, jumped off a 12-metre cliff after being omitted from third division Diagoras Rhodes's squad to face the national champions in a fourth round match.

Police said the midfielder had left a note at the top of the cliff that read: "Being left out of the squad was a great injustice. I cannot take it any more."

Koskiniatis had played 61 times for Diagoras, scoring four goals, but was sidelined all season following an operation on his injured left leg. Local media reported that the club had sent him for psychological help. He went missing around midday when his team mates met for their pre-match lunch. His motorbike was found at about 1700 local time in the Profitis Ilias area just outside Rhodes town. The news was relayed to the Diagoras players during a brief delay in the match, which they lost 3-2.

Cyprus tourism needs state support for 2009



Nicosia: Cyprus's tourism industry needs state support to weather the knock-on effects of the global financial crisis in 2009, the head of the country's hoteliers' association said.

Tourism accounts for about 13 per cent of Cyprus's gross domestic product, but the outlook for the market is uncertain amid worsening financial turmoil spreading globally.

"There is a problem...but the most pressing issue is the short timeframe from now until November 10, when the World Tourism Market in London opens and our competitors present their destinations' tourism offerings for summer 2009," said Harris Loizides, president of the Cyprus Hotel Association. "It is well known that for several years now there has been an erosion in the competitiveness of the tourism industry... We have to see what the government can do to support the tourism industry," Cyprus finance minister Charilaos Stavrakis said.

Loizides said that the issue of high airport tariffs charged to passengers and airlines would have to be solved.

Athens sewage water to be reused

The Environment and Public Works Ministry is planning a project to reuse the hundreds of tons of wastewater that are discharged daily from a sewage-processing unit on the islet of Psyttaleia, off Piraeus, sources have revealed.

The ministry aims to finance a 2-million-euro study intended to lead to reusing up to 250,000 tons of water from the Psyttaleia plant for the irrigation of parks and green spaces in Attica, according to an announce-

ment by the director of the Athens Water and Sewage Company (EYDAP), Costas Costoulas. The water would be purified before being used for irrigation.

The initiative was announced following a meeting between EYDAP staff and members of a group of environmentalists from 16 municipalities in Athens and Piraeus.

It would be the first attempt to recycle some of the 900,000 tons of wastewater believed to be gushing into the sea from Psyttaleia every day. But sources at EYDAP concede that there are various barriers. These

include the absence of the infrastructure required for the water to be transported and purified. Both the transport of the water and the necessary purification facilities will be costly, according to Costoulas.

Another problem is the lack of any legislative framework that would set out conditions for the use of the recycled wastewater.

The practice of reusing water from waste-processing plants for irrigation is widespread and well established in countries such as Israel, Tunisia and Morocco, which have serious drought problems. Greece is considerably less advanced in this area. The most recent study of the issue, in 2001, indicated that virtually all no water discharged from waste facilities was reused, with 45 percent running into the sea, 12 percent into rivers, 32 percent into streams and 7 percent seeping into the ground.

The one initiative that has been taken in Greece to reuse waste water is in Thessaloniki, in a project launched 10 years ago. This year, some 2,500 hectares of farmland in the broader Thessaloniki area was irrigated by purified wastewater.

Survey: Greek expats left for better life

FRANKFURT, Germany, Oct. 29 (UPI) -- Most Greek expatriates asked say they left for the United States to seek a better life, while Greeks going to Europe wanted to escape poverty, a poll indicates.

The poll, conducted by the Kapa-Research firm for the Greek Foreign Ministry and presented at the SAE Europe regional convention in Frankfurt, Germany, indicated most of the immigrants left the provinces of Macedonia, the

Peloponnese and Epirus, the Athens News Agency reported Wednesday. The survey also found that most marriages between expatriate Greeks are held using "old country" traditions and so maintain a link with the homeland, while 33 percent of expatriates speak mostly Greek at home, the news service said.

The poll was conducted 2006-08, surveying 15,000 ethnic Greeks living around the world, officials said.