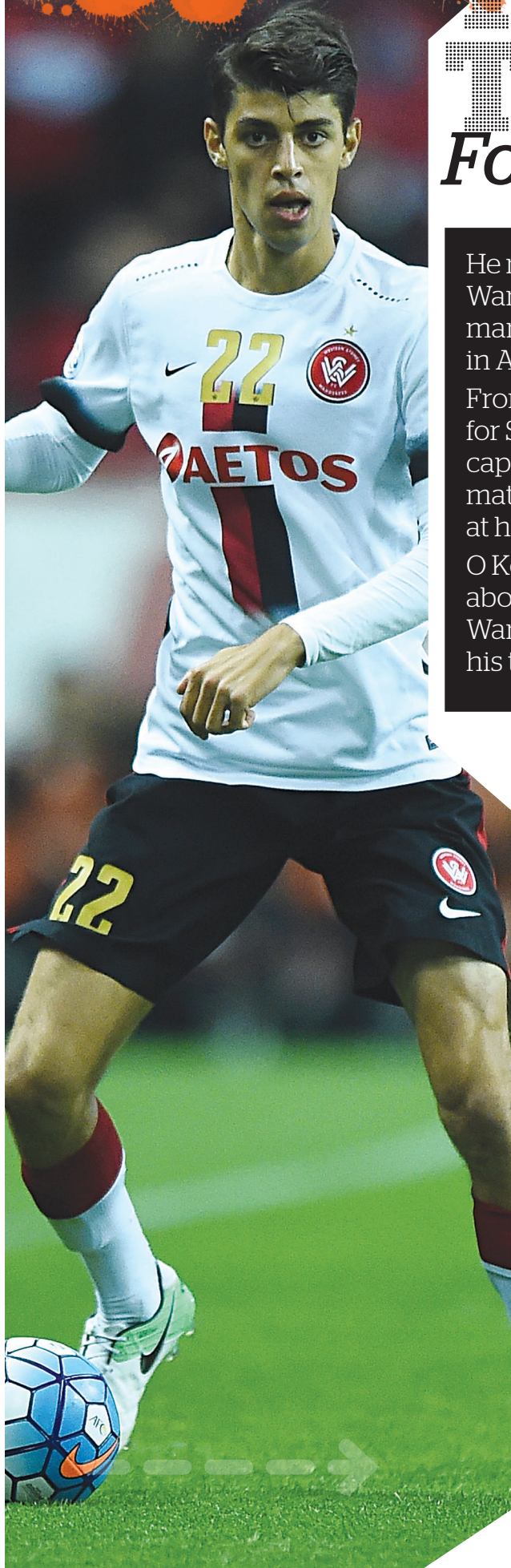


THE SKY'S THE LIMIT *For Aspropotamitis*



He may only be 21 years old but already Western Sydney Wanderers defender Jonathan Aspropotamitis is achieving many things in his so far short career playing top level football in Australia.

From his early beginnings as a football playing reserve grade for Sydney Olympic in the NPL NSW competition, to recently captaining the Young Socceroos in important qualifying matches, the proud Greek Australian star really has the world at his feet.

O Kosmos had the opportunity to chat to the rising youngster about a range of things from his experiences with the Wanderers, his relationship with new coach Josep Gombau to his time with the Australian Under 23's side.

OK: It's been an interesting 2017 season both domestically and internationally for you, how have you viewed it all so far?

JA: There has been some change from a coaching perspective and some player turnover at the beginning of the pre-season. I spent a month of the pre-season playing for the Under 23's National Team in a qualifying tournament for the 2018 AFC Asian Cup and was very proud to captain my country.

At the Wanderers, although I hadn't been able to play with regularity, the competition for places in my position has been a huge positive for me as I've been able to up my game knowing that we are all pushing each other every day and this will ultimately prove a huge benefit for my career.

OK: You've had a change of coach at the Wanderers from Tony Popovic to Josep Gombau, a person you've known from the Australian Youth team setup, how's the transition been?

JA: I think in world football, there's always going to be a time when a coach moves on or the club makes a change. In our situation, Poppa took up an opportunity to go to Europe to pursue an ambition of his and now the club has appointed Josep moving forward. Poppa provided the club with an amazing foundation for five seasons, with unparalleled success that led to us being one of the biggest clubs in the country and being the top team in Asia in 2014.

Moving forward, knowing Josep from my time in the Under 23s National Team, he will be looking to build our reputation as a club and start a new journey that will lead to continued success in the future. I learnt things under Poppa that I will have with me for my whole career, and now under Josep, I'm embracing a different style of coaching, way of playing and different methods, and am really optimistic about what's going to happen in future.

OK: Personally, being a professional footballer, what are your main