



their country and I hope that I do represent Australia one day. It would be an honour to do so.

I don't really pay attention to what is being said in the media, I prefer to concentrate on the present and focus on my performances with the Newcastle Jets. Of course, any compliments are great to receive and I appreciate their support, but I prefer not to look too far ahead and instead I like to focus on what I can control and do with my club at the moment.

**OK: You have played for a couple of NPL clubs in NSW in particular Sydney Olympic, how important is the NPL and its development with the Australian game overall?**

DP: I have played in the NPL with Penrith Nepean United when I was 15 and Sydney Olympic at 16. The NPL gives young footballers a chance to improve their game and gives young footballers a platform in which they can learn and develop to progress their football career. There are a lot of talented players in the NPL many of which could play for any

Hyundai A-League team if given the opportunity.

**OK: As a footballer what is your advice to any budding youngster coming through the ranks?**

DP: My best advice is to work hard, train hard and constantly work to improve their game. To never give up is also important as there can be many setbacks, such as, injuries. Staying positive and believing in yourself and your talent is also important.

**OK: You come from a football family, your father Angelo is still going strong at 49 along with your siblings, how was it growing up in such a sporty family?**

DP: My father Angelo has been the biggest influence in both my career and life. He has taught my siblings and I everything we know about football. I am happy to have three of my siblings with me at Newcastle. For the last few years we've been in different places. I was in Brisbane and then Korea, Kosta was in Perth while my little brother Makis and my sister Pana were at home in Sydney.

We've grown up playing football our whole lives. We played in the backyard a lot, two versus two and three versus three. My father always told us that you need to put in the hard work in order to get as high up as you can. From very young he has always been there teaching us different things along the way. He spent a lot of time doing little drills in the backyard and taking us to training.

**OK: Finally, you are of Greek heritage, how important is that to you**

DP: I am very proud to be Greek. My family has originated from Greece and I am a dual citizen of Greece. I have visited Greece to see my family and would love to go back one day, maybe to play.

**OK: Thank you for taking out the time in your busy schedule to do this interview with O Kosmos Dimitri, the Australian Greek community is rallying behind you to succeed by achieving your goals and dreams.**







DP: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do this interview, I hope all the readers have a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.



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