



By George Stavroulakis

Armenakas chasing Panathinaikos contract

Former Australian youth international Panos Armenakas has caught the attention of Greek Super League side Panathinaikos.

The Greens have been impressed with Armenakas thus far at training sessions and trial matches with the former Sydney Olympic youth player hoping to tag down a first team contract in the new year.

The 20-year-old has come with much high pedigree as the attacker has played for the likes of Brescia, Watford and Udinese in their respective Youth teams as well as being capped by the Australian and Greek youth sides.

Born in Newport Beach, USA, Armenakas settled in Sydney, Australia at a young age after being scouted by former Soccerro and AEK Athens legend Jim Patikas who first noticed Panos' potential.

Panathinaikos coach Giorgos Donis has been a keen advocate in pushing good young youth talent in the Greek Super League since taking over the Greens earlier this year.

Donis has shown faith with the likes of young Greek stars such as Tasos Chatzigiouanis, Ilias Chatzitheodoridis, Giannis Bouzoukis and Paschalis Staikos to name a few.

Armenakas will be hoping that his hard work and performances at training will do enough in securing a deal with the 20-time former Greek Champions.



Panos Armenakas is hoping to win a contract with Greek Super League side Panathinaikos in the new year

Valkanis believes in Fornaroli

Former South Melbourne defender and now PEC Zwolle assistant Michael Valkanis believes Melbourne City coach Warren Joyce needs to keep star South American Bruno Fornaroli at the club despite the ace marksman being yet again left out in City's 3-0 victory over Newcastle Jets on Sunday.

"I think the fans would be most unhappy if he was allowed to sign for a rival A-League team," said Valkanis, who was both an assistant and briefly head coach at City before "philosophical differences" with Joyce precipitated his departure a year ago.

"To me, in many ways, Bruno is Melbourne City ... I think he remains an integral part of the club.

"He's been a vital part of their setup for going on four years now and is one of the greatest goalscorers ever to have come to Australia.

"I don't know how this is going to play out, and I'm not privy to what's going on behind closed doors at City, but what I can say is that during my 18 months there Bruno was one of the hardest workers in the squad," added Valkanis.



"He's a crowd favourite, a fantastic character and a great player.

"He's a goalscoring machine and his ability to hold up the ball and bring other players into the game is also exceptional.

"He can score you a goal out of nothing. His work ethic was

excellent in my time there, he was our club captain and he's going to be important if City are going to win anything this season.

"I've got nothing but good words to say about Bruno." Sydney FC have been circling for months and would be likely to pounce.

Former South Melbourne defender Michael Valkanis believes Melbourne City need to keep Bruno Fornaroli