



really enjoy...
 What a great player...
 have a lot of football discussions and do a lot of analysis work together. The three of us make a good team. We love doing what we do. And we have a lot of fun doing it. We will work very hard and leave no stone unturned to achieve what we have set out to do.

OK: Since you've come on board with John and Aron, the team has turned a corner in a positive way, what were the objectives for you all with this team?

MV: The first and most important objective before we even spoke about philosophy and tactics was building a team. We needed to install values, beliefs and behaviours that were non-negotiable. We had to identify the right players, the right characters. People that put the team first. Changing the culture was paramount.

We focused on changing the environment on and off the pitch. On the pitch we made sure every training session was a masterpiece. You get limited time with national team therefore you have to be pretty spot on with your work. We wanted players to love coming to the national team. To wear the jumper with pride, love to train, learn, challenge themselves to improve and believe in the style of play. The way we trained our methodologies, our planning had to be spot on. I love when the players leave training and feel that they have worked hard, they have learnt whilst they have enjoyed training, knowing full well that they are fully prepared for a match brimming with confidence.

Our work off the pitch with our preparation of presentations to make sure that visually the players learnt was

needed to complement our on field work was vital in implementing our philosophy.

We had a huge task. We had to put in place good foundations. Now we have to keep working at it, keep improving. Trying to become better each camp.

Through our work we obviously want to assemble and prepare a team that can play high energy attacking football, making the whole of Greece and all Greeks all over the world proud. Hopefully our hard work and performances will take us to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

OK: Blessed with so many young future stars, do you feel the introduction of these young enthusiastic players has given the team a new lease of life?

MV: Yes I do. But I think the new lease of life, the hope that the whole nation now feels comes from our style of play. Playing attacking football excites. People, media experts believed Greece couldn't play this way. Well, in the last 3 games, pundits were proven wrong. The team played aggressive attacking football that entertained and gave hope to a whole nation. It really is exciting times ahead. In history, Greeks have shown what they are capable of when they come together as one. The team, performances have excited and injected enthusiasm in the Greek football landscape. It is really fulfilling and gives me great motivation to keep working hard, to keep improving knowing we have taken important steps in the last camps.

OK: Can you state which players

have impressed you thus far?

MV They all have impressed. We need every player performing, all 24 in the squad as one!

OK: Probably a tough one to answer but will we see the likes of experienced stars such as Sokratis Papastathopoulos and Kostas Manolas called up for future camps?

MV: No player is ruled out. Every player has the opportunity to get called up based on their clubs performances and how they are tracking.

OK: What's next for the team and when is the next camp?

MV: I and the other coaches are used to being in club football working every day. The National team is different, there's different work. Lots of player analysis, tracking a large list of players playing in Greece and abroad. Sometimes even some travel to watch players playing live. We don't get together now till next March 2020. Though, during this period, we will be working with the other youth coaches in the national team set up and also doing seminars all over Greece in regards to style of play, implementation, methodologies etc an important part of influencing change.

OK: How have you settled into life in Greece?

Loving it. I certainly know where I want to retire when I get older after football. Lifestyle, food, climate, beaches. Greece is amazing.

OK: Where are you living?

Athens, Voula - Gods country.

OK: Your family, how have the settled in?

MV: My wife and boys have been super. My best supporters. Always there for me. Yes, family is enjoying it. They have travelled quite a bit because of my