

JAPANESE SUCCESS for Arthur Papas



What a year it's been for Melbourne Australian Greek born coach **Arthur Papas**.

The well-travelled and highly sought after coach was part of Ange Postecoglou's success story as the assistant who, along with fellow Australian Peter Cklamovski, led the Yokohama Marinos to a J-League Championship.

The 39-year-old has had a well-documented run in his extensive coaching career thus far as O Kosmos caught up with Pappas after his side's Championship victory.

MS: You have gone under the radar as one of the up and coming Australian coaches this country has ever seen, how has your coaching journey been thus far?

AP - Since the moment I decided to turn my passion into my profession the journey is something I've never swayed from and been completely committed to. I'm living a dream where every morning, I wake up knowing I'm doing something I love and yes amongst all that there are some days that are tougher than others but I'm privileged and if anything, I like the days and periods where your resolve and belief is tested because it's what makes me tick as a person.

MS: You've managed teams not only in Australia but in Asia particularly having held the likes of positions as the Indian Under 23's coach amongst other opportunities in the Middle East also, how different have each nation's been in terms of football standard and knowledge?

AP - Fundamentally for me it is always very similar on a football level because I have a very clear vision of how I want my teams to play and therefore wherever I go this the aim is to instil this belief into the players, I'm working with and make a difference. Of course, each country has differing level of players and also the infrastructures vary but this has never stopped a group embracing an attacking style of play.

MS: You are only 39 years of age, what have been your driving forces in making it as a professional coach?

AP - It's become more and more clear to me that this obsessive nature and drive are borne from a very young age where all I thought about was playing and watching football. I recall being very young and being taken to watch South Melbourne Hellas and feeling a connection to the game and the passion involved. To dig deeper though and understand why I like