

This is an interview with Mr Stavros Lipapis. It's the 25th April [2013] and we are speaking to Stavros at his home. The interviewer is Joanna Tsalikis and this interview is being conducted as part of the Greek Migration Experience, Oral Histories Project. This is an OEEGA initiative, and we are funded by the Australian Government's "Your Community Heritage Program - Sharing Community Heritage Stories". Also present facilitating our recording equipment is Helen Haltis.

As indicated in the Oral History Handbook:

Punctuation: Square bracket [] indicate material in the transcript that does not occur on the original tape recording. Sentences that were left unfinished in the normal manner of conversation are shown ending in three dashes, - - -.

Stavro thank you very much, for agreeing to be interviewed this afternoon. Can I ask you first to state your full name, where and when were you born?

Yes, I was born in Greece, the island of Kos 15th of the third 1942.

Can you tell us a little bit about your family background, what your father did for example?

Now, well we're going back in the year 1914, my father, my mother, they were born in Turkey and the place called Bodrum and that's where they grew up until this revolution came up. Now what I know, the background going back from great grandfather, he was rich and what I know when he was coming to town on a horse; he had body guards escorting him coming down. Also my grandmother was rich. Now when the trouble started, Turkish soldiers took my grandfather, he never came back and my grandmother was left alone with two young kids, young girls. Well, they had a farm, working, and the buyers coming to buy the crop, they had warned my grandmother, "When you sell the crop, grab the money and disappear because things won't be as good as you think."

Did your Grandmother - did she ever try to find out what happened to her husband, to your grandfather?

Well it's hard to say, because with all the trouble how can you? War was starting you see, it wasn't very easy for them to find out.

So she was now without her husband?

Without her husband and left with two kids.

And she had to survive and raise her family?

They had to survive and whatever, plus my father and everybody who was on the island --- Now when the trouble started, everybody went. Some relatives went to Crete, others went to Kos. They split everywhere. Now with the trouble there, what I know, my

grandmother with two kids, it was only women and children, they happened to be on one island, - on the Turkish side - for so many days, I don't know how many days, without food and water and with their good luck, there was a plane going past, above them. They started yelling and waving and most probably the pilot saw what happened and he gave a signal and that saved them, otherwise they would have died there.

These were Greek planes?

Well it must have been a Greek plane.

So what happens now? Your grandmother has been rescued with your father and his siblings. So what happens now?

My father didn't know my grandmother until they went to Kos. What happens now? I don't know how old my father was, but when they settled in Kos they were under the Italian government, the Dodecanese was under the Italian government. At the age of sixteen my father left Kos. He started working as a seaman. While travelling around, at that time, things weren't very good because still the trouble with Greece and Turkey were starting and what my father said at the age of sixteen with no papers, no identification, he happened to be in Piraeus and that's when Greece split in two - the king and the government. Now my father happened to be on the government side, well the king's side they had plenty of food to eat, the government no. So if they happened to get my father with no papers he would have been in trouble, because he had no identification and his good luck was that the Kos society, in Athens, somehow he got in touch with them and they helped him to get whatever he had to get and he was free to walk in the street otherwise he was very scared. Now for forty days, suddenly he had nothing to eat, and he used to go down to the beach where [this] grass was growing and that kept him alive for forty days

Can you describe what this grass was?

This grass we call it in Greece, αρμυρήθρα [armyritra]

Αρμυρήθρα, [Armyritra], is it like a seaweed?

It's like a rice, the leaves are like rice. Well he had no choice, he had to eat it and somehow going around he got to know somebody with a boat and he used to take people from one side to another, smuggle them or whatever, and the first thing he did when they went on the other side was [to eat] bread. Being hungry and all that, so alright, he got bread, plenty of bread but going in the other side again, when he used to

see the kids starving, he started giving them bread to eat and that was going on and on you know, until he started again, working with boats.

So he was still a young man?

He was sixteen years old when all this happened

How was he able to help your grandmother?

Now my father, travelling around for 10 years; he went back to Kos, he left sixteen years old and he [left when he was] a single man and when he went to Kos his brother couldn't recognise him.

His older brother?

Younger brother, so of course my mother grew up too and as the time went by, somehow my father got his own boat and started his own business and working, he met my mother and fell in love and married her.

So because he started working so young, he was able to provide for his mother, would that be correct? He would have sent her money?

No, you see what's happened, the captain of the boat saved his money, and when he left he gave him the money, it was different people at the time. Somehow he managed to get his own boat and he got his papers as a captain and that's how he started. Well it was hard at the time because it was all through the war.

Now your father was a very powerful figure in your life.

He was.

And I recall in our preliminary interview that he also spoke several languages, is that correct?

Well yes, he talked Turkish and he talked Italian, not very well but [enough] to do his business.

Can you talk to us a little bit about some of his experiences that he had at sea when he was on the boat?

Yeah well at sea you got to be tough because he got hit three times, twice by plane and once with a U-boat, three times he escaped but the third time he lost everything.

Was he rescued from the sea?

Well you see now, during the war, the law says you can travel, you can do business, but at night you have to anchor where you are, stop and start again in the morning. But it doesn't mean they won't hit you. So the first time when he saw the planes coming, he threw the boat in the sea and left the boat and go, otherwise they would have been dead. Well the first time he saved the ship, the second time the U boat, the Greek U boat. He talked with the, two captains they talked.

This was after they had been hit?

After they hit him with the planes.

Right, but the boat was still ok?

They fixed the boat the first time

Right

And he said. "Don't hit me, I will take the boat into the harbour" (laughs). We have to hit, so they hit it, but the ship was loaded and didn't do a lot of damage. He saved the ship. Now by that time the Italian planes came and gave a signal, but of course, a wrong signal? Anyway, the second time my father took the boat out and that's it. "Because, if I lose the boat that's it, that's my end". So my father's brother [in-law], he married his sister, he needed timber, he was a carpenter, so he said. "You have to go to Karpathos for timber". Anyway, it went on and on and on where he changed his mind and threw the boat in the sea and on the way the planes --- So they threw the boat in and left the boat and that's it. He could have saved the boat if the boat was on a different direction, but the boat was going in a wrong direction and they lost everything.

Now at this point, he would still have been a young man in his twenties?

Well no, he must have been 30s he was young, 35 around that time.

Alright, so he's now developed a lot of skills and he's become a captain at sea and he's obviously got a very strong sense of survival. Can you tell us a little bit more now about how you do come into the picture?

Yes Well. My father married my mother, having kids you see, we were growing.

Another war came as the time passed, so my father decided, he took us, before the war started, it was coming anyway, and from Kos we went to Turkey, to Bodrum, that's where he was born because my father had friends there, born in Turkey in Bodrum and

he knew people, so when we left Kos, he took another two guys with him, I wish he never took them!

Why is that?

Why? Because when we went to Bodrum, his friends, they approached him and they offered him a job as a captain saying "Alright we have got these ammunitions for Americans, you have to take them there" you see. So now, that was a chance in a life time, because not only my father was getting paid for this job, they gave us a house to live free, food free, my father, my mother and the kids would get paid.

So you were all provided for by the government at that time.

The Turkish government

Ah yes

Now my father talked to my mother and somehow she agreed to stay there, so when he went to finalise, these two people talked my mother out of it and when my father came back from where he was sent, my mother said. "No, we will go to Palestine".

How old were you at this time?

Well I was very young (laughs) very young. So my father went back and he said. "Look we're going back, we're going to Palestine" and his friends and the Turkish soldiers begged him. "Look, stay here, nothing will happen to your family. Before your family dies, we die first". He didn't. I wished he stayed there, if we would have stayed there, the Italian government would have compensated my father for the ship that he lost. This money now still stands in Italy, in my father's name and when we came to Australia, the Italian Consulate got in touch with my father anyway so ---

This money has never been retrieved?

No, no it's still in Italy.

And there is no way you can claim this now because of the law?

The law is if you --- At that time let's face --- My father was born in Turkey but he was Greek, now we split, we went to Kos under the Italian government, suddenly you are Italian or Greek-Italian or whatever. After the war we came back which we are coming later there, and the law says if you're Italian naturalised you will get the money.

So you didn't actually have Italian citizenship?

No, no

Alright, so now the decision has been made to go to Palestine.

To Palestine

Can you tell us about this?

From there we went through Asia by train and we went to Palestine. In Palestine there was about 5,000 refugees, Greek. Again my father is offered a job as a director for the whole 5,000 but my father said. "Look I'm not so educated for this job, I want one job for so many", so they give him a job for 1,000 people. Every morning the food came and he had to receive this food for the people. There was a bakery you know they used to bake bread and all that you know, which was easier for him and I can remember every morning my father handed me two cans, and every morning I used go to the bakery and fill it up with milk and cocoa to go back in the camp and by the time I got back the kids used to--- (laughs)

They got to it first?

Now there're memories there too, because the Arabs used to come with the camels and with watermelons and selling it and whatever you know.

This would have been a very interesting experience for a child. Can you remember how old you were, under ten?

Under ten under eight, I was young. I can remember the Arab women every morning walking in a straight line to go and fill, go for water with the pots on their head, the babies hanging on their back and the spindle making wool.

Multi tasking?

For the jumpers.

That's a very strong image for a little boy.

Also I happened to be with my father and my other brother in the River Jordon, that's where I was baptised there.

In the River Jordon? And was the ceremony conducted by the local Greek priest?

Yeah well there were plenty there.

Most of the Greek refugees in the camp, from where abouts were they from? Different areas?

From everywhere, they were from everywhere. It was beautiful you know. I can still remember, I got this scar here. That happened in Palestine, a mosquito bit me and in the hospital I went, there was a Nazi doctor which he must have killed about fifteen hundred kids. At the end they caught him.

How do you know that he was a Nazi?

Well now, you see when my mother heard this, she would never leave me from her side. I was in the hospital there. They took me there because I got an infection. My mother wouldn't let me from her side.

So your mother must have known or sensed something about this man? How did she get this information?

Well you know, babies dying and dying, well they were there you know, so they worked it out.

So she worked it out. This was a very important time of your childhood. Did you make friends with a lot of the other children?

(laughs) Well it was fun too with the kids because I mean going around there, we used to go everywhere there was no trouble and nobody would hurt you and everybody knew each other in the camp.

So, how long were you in the camp?

Well we stayed there until the war was over.

And then what happened after that?

What happens after that? We came back by boat.

Back to?

To Kos.

To Kos again? So you've done a lot of travelling for a little boy?

A lot of travelling yes, I even went up to the Dead Sea, a lot of travelling and I'll tell you what, when I came back to Kos, I really wanted to go back to Palestine. Every morning I was crying, I don't know, until I forgot everything.

So your life there was a very happy one.

Was still in my mind, there.

Alright, so we're back in Kos now. What's the next stage of your life now?

Well now you see after the war, things weren't very great in Greece. My father was working as a captain, but, not only for us, for everybody, let's say the truth, so now my father decided to come to Australia and this was a good thing.

What was the political situation like, at that point before you left in Kos, in Greece perhaps?

Not very good, not very good, no, when we left and a few years after wasn't ---

There was conflict in the Government?

Yes well it was, always it was. Greece will never change anyway. (laughs)

Okay so now you decide to migrate.

Yes

How old are you at this time?

Well I finished the primary school in Greece. First of all my brother came here, then my brother and sister, and then '55, I came to Australia.

And how old were you when you arrived?

Well I was about 13 years old

Alright so what happens now, obviously you went to school?

Well I went a couple of years to school but you know. It was tough coming first and you had to work, we had to work, that's it.

What sort of work did you do?

Well I went a couple of years to school and at sixteen years old I started working in a milk bar; two of my friends had a shop, so I worked there for a year.

Now in our previous interview, you mentioned that you became involved in sport.

Yes

And in some ways this also helped to change your life. Can you talk to us a bit about that?

That helped me a lot up to now. I was a good player (laughs).

Well can you tell us how that happened?

But with the people I got involved, certainly I was Greek, I didn't play for the Greek team.

What sort of sport?

I played soccer, I love soccer. I like soccer so I played for the Austrian people.

Now that's unusual, can you talk to us how?

It is, well these people they --- If I say something wrong for these people --- I'm wrong, not them because they took me aside, junior player, they looked after me, of course I played good soccer, but I gave them my heart too because what they gave me, nobody - --

Well you must have had some talent at the sport, but when you say what they "gave you", can you describe for us what those things were?

Well I played for them and then they teach me a trade.

And what was the trade?

Plasterer, which this trade carried me up to now and my kids achieved what I couldn't give them.

That's a very interesting situation.

But through this now, of course I was working with people, with builders and they knew what kind of person I was, so through me, my kids are where they are now, you know with trade and a good trade.

I'm interested in how you --- How did they come to offer you the plasterers training through the sport, I think that's an interesting one. Can you talk to us about that?

Yes well playing good soccer they approached me to play for them and the agreement was "you have to teach me plastering" and they did, plus they looked after me. I cannot say anything against these people because when I stopped playing, I have not met these people for forty years and six months ago - my mistake anyway - when they saw me they all put their arms around me.

That's a lovely story. Your life in Australia has been a very positive one. I'd like you to talk about your experiences in Australia a little bit apart from the sport and the trade, I'm sure you've got some stories, other little stories you could tell us about your life in Australia. Is there something that sticks out special for you?

Of course Australia is special. Nobody can say anything about Australia, it's the best country.

And what about the places where you grew up, have you ever been back to Bodrum or to Kos and those places?

Yes, yes, yes and I've been there and I will go there. You know if you think, it must be in the blood and somehow you want to go back and see them places. I've been to Bodrum many times with my father and when I went back for a holiday a couple of times, still I want to go and see that place.

And what about Palestine? That would be a challenge.

You never know (laughs).

There's a few more things before we finish up. Just a little bit about your mother. I know your father was a very strong influence in your life how did your mother influence you?

Well my mother was a very quiet woman and ---

It's a bit challenging to talk about.

It's --- painful you know.

Yes, yes we understand that.

If you lose your father young ---

Your parents gave you a lot Stavro. What do you feel they gave you most of all?

Australia

Australia, well that's a lovely way to finish I think.

It is.

Are there any last words that you would like to share with us before we finish the interview?

Well I think I said a lot, and my father did the best in coming here, probably because in life - if you lose everything - you are coming to the end and you think it's the end of the world, and then you decide, well I'll take this line and if it comes good, you don't know. And many of us coming here, we didn't know where we were going.

So, he took a lot of risks and he accepted the challenges.

Yes everybody, everybody even the whole lot of us took a risk to come here because we didn't know where we were going. But at the end it paid off.

Well Stavro you have given us a beautiful interview and you established a home and a family and a career and we'd like to thank you very much for your contribution today. It's been wonderful.

(Laughter) I thank you too

This is part two of an interview with Mr Stavros Lipapis and we would like to look at Stavros' life in a bit more detail in Australia. Stavro thank you very much again, for being interviewed about your life. You've had a very interesting childhood and a very interesting background. Now I'd like to ask you a bit about your first impressions when you came to Australia, how old were you and what was your first impression?

Well when I came to Australia, I finished primary school in Greece 1955. I lived in Marian Street North Adelaide, so I went to North Adelaide school for a couple of years.

Did your parents move to North Adelaide straight away or did they go ---

Straight away

So they moved there immediately?

We went straight there, so naturally going to school we were playing soccer for school.

Is that where you first became interested in sport?

Yeah well it was my sport anyway. We played cricket, we played football but my sport was soccer so ---

Did you have any idea what you wanted to do in your career at this point?

Yeah well being young, and things wasn't very bright either too but it was better anyway ---

Than Europe when you left?

When we left, so when I finished school my two friends had a milk bar in North Adelaide, O'Connell Street, Red and White milk bar it was the name. I worked there for a year. Also I started playing soccer for teams. I played for Olympic, the Greek team, juniors.

How old were you then?

Well I was fifteen, sixteen years old. Now one time Olympic and that's when I left them too because I didn't like. I was a quiet fellow and one day they were playing in Hindmarsh stadium against Elizabeth which they had big trouble there and, when that happened, I left them and I went and played for Victoria the German team.

What prompted you to leave the Greek team and how old were you then?

I was sixteen years old when I left them; fifteen, sixteen years old. I was playing for juniors, so the German people, they really liked me because I was a good player.

But there must have been a reason for why you went from one place to the other team? This is a little bit unusual.

It was a reason because Hellas, Olympic - there was a big trouble in Hindmarsh Stadium so, I thought I'd better go and play for somebody else.

I know that you are a bit sensitive about talking about this, but can you tell us what the big trouble was? Or was it political issues?

Well in soccer anything is happening in soccer you see, well the spectators, hot blooded if something goes wrong they don't like it and you know ---

Did people get aggressive in the game?

Oh yes (laughs)

Like they are today.

Big trouble there.

Alright, so now you've gone to a German team.

German team it was called Victoria, so I played there for a year, and they really liked me because I played good soccer. When Austria approached me to go and play for them, so I said. "Alright". Well I had to learn something, some trade so I said. "If you teach me plastering, I'll play for you", so I said alright so I went back to the Germans and I said. "Look I want to go to Austria".

How did they take that?

Oh well they didn't like it, didn't like it.

So?

They wouldn't let me, so one night the committee called me into the clubhouse and we're sitting in a room.

This is the German team?

The German team, Victoria, he said look, this is true. "We don't want to lose you. We examine you everything, all the sides. We cannot stop you from your personality", he said. "Look we stop you from everything, but from your personality we cannot stop you, we'll let you go. This is something that's never happened, we give you your clearance in your hand, you can't do that" he said. "But we'll do that for you" he said. So they gave me my clearance and I went to Austria. Well these people, they were

even better than them, they looked after me, [I] played for them and I became a first division player here.

This was obviously professional playing now?

Professional yeah.

And you would have earned money at this time?

Yes, we were getting paid.

How did your father see your sporting career?

My father was, wasn't very interesting (laughs). Now he didn't like me to play but when he saw me, best player in the paper he was very proud. (laughs)

So you got a lot of coverage in the media, in the newspapers and so on?

Yes, yes, you see best player every week. I was playing best player and all that.

So you got publicity as a very good player? I know that somewhere in one of our preliminary interviews, you had the opportunity to play interstate or overseas do you want to talk about that?

Now well you see, the Greeks weren't very happy, me playing for another team.

They all wanted you it seems these groups?

Yes of course, when I was twenty one I got --- Actually my friend went to America and he said. "Look Steve one day ---" So when he went to America, he was playing there, and his father told them about me. So one day I had a letter from them saying. "You come to America, play for us, we pay your fares, everything". My father never let me go (laughs).

Why was that?

Well what can you do? That's Greeks.

So you could have had an international career?

I had my chance, even when I got married my wife didn't want to go.

That's a shame

That made me give up soccer.

And you accepted - you just accepted this?

Well what can you do? Nothing.

Well it certainly says something for your talent

Now of course my son started playing soccer. He was good. I didn't know my friend was here from America and one day he was playing for the state team, they were playing in Brighton and my friend saw the name. He came there, I met him and I didn't know he was in Australia so we started talking and he said. "Steve if you would have come that time, the guy who wrote to you, he was a multi millionaire, he wasn't a poor guy (laughs) today no work" he said.

So it wasn't meant to be?

It wasn't meant to be. It was hard work, well I love work anyway.

When you first arrived in this country - I know we're going backwards a little bit, to a young boy it must have seemed like Paradise to you? What was your impression?

Yes, yes, yes it's all different isn't it? You come to another world you know and if you compare that side with this side it looked like a Paradise.

And what did your family do, how. what did your parents do?

Well I had to go to work didn't I?

But what were your parents - what was your father doing at this point?

Well my father had to go and work in a factory, it was very hard for him because you know if you've worked all your life at sea and then you come in a factory it's like a jail? Yeah it was unbelievable. Eventually he got used to it.

Going back to your sport now, was there a point where you were able to pass your knowledge on to other young people. Did you ever coach young players?

No, no I never had the time because I had to work and when I left I kept away from soccer too.

It must have been a bit disappointing that you couldn't continue?

Well it's not disappointment because I had to work six or seven days a week, so no time you know. You see to play sport you've got to have time and if you haven't got that then ---

Your children now are playing sport or they started to?

Well my children played and the best thing they did, well, they were good players but I think it's better, what they're doing now. I mean, in soccer you take a chance and if you succeed then all right.

Have you ever thought of going back and coaching now?

No, no too old

No?

If I was young yes, if I was twenty-five alright. You've got to have the time you know otherwise with your wife --- laughs) trouble.

So you had a lot of these opportunities come to you.

I had a lot of opportunities yeah

But I suppose it was fate you decided to spend it on your home and family?

I don't regret it but I concentrate on my kids to learn a trade and I'm happy to watch them now because they're doing well.

Do you have grandchildren playing sport?

I have five and one coming six.

Oh congratulations! Would you like to see them go into the sporting area?

Yeah well one is playing soccer the older one.

Your grandson?

The grandson

And how old is he?

Twelve or thirteen, something like that.

And do you think he's got similar talent to his grandfather?

He has got some talent but you know you've got to have somebody to show him.

Now it's a very physical sport. How would you compare this to say something like football? What are the differences in your opinion?

Now well it's too different things. Football is a good game, I played football when I was going to school, you've got to be tough, you got to be fit. You got to be fit in soccer too. Now if you want to be good in soccer or everything, you have to train for that. Now when I was playing first division, I trained every day. I used to get up 5.30 I

was down the beach, every morning seven days a week, twice in the afternoon with the team and play Saturday.

That's a very big commitment.

Well, if you want to be good, you have to be good, and alright you say I play soccer but you have to remember one thing, if I don't succeed in soccer then I don't know nothing to carry me? So that's what I try with my kids. So alright, I said. "Nick go and be a carpenter, cabinet maker and all that". Well I knew builders, they knew me, and it was easy for them to get a job.

Stavro, with soccer ---

Also depends on your personality too. What today counts, what kind of person you are and what you want.

You have to be disciplined.

You see.

Were there differences at the time that you were playing to the way young people play today? Do you see a difference in the change of the sport, what would those changes be?

Now, it changed a little, because when we used to play we played for the team and the team ---We paid for nothing you know what I mean. The team, well today the kids must --- It's all business. I don't know, they have to pay \$500 a year or \$600 every kid, know what I mean? Which at the time no, we played for the team and they --- Alright we had to get soccer boots and all that, but guernseys and all that. It was different at the time.

But the team supported you from a financial point of view?

The team supported us yes.

And the style, the way the game is played? Do you notice any differences now, do you think it's better?

Yeah well, you see now, I don't know you know, you see today the team --- The trainers, they train with a different system and you know. We played different systems that time, there is different systems today, but the game never changes. To me it never changes.

The basic rules.

The basic rules you know like 2-4, 2-3 and 4, systems. Before but --- No matter what you do you go back to the old system.

Sport Stavro, has obviously given you certain qualities and attitude; it's helped to make you the person you are. What are those qualities?

Sport, it's a very healthy thing on any young boy, girls, boys whatever, it keeps you fit, it keeps you healthy, you're a different person altogether.

So it's obviously given you a lot in terms of your attitude.

Now listen. I used to go down the beach every day, running every day, every morning. Even when I stopped, my boys were playing soccer so I said. "Listen, I give you one exercise, half an hour everyday to come down, with me down the beach" so they said alright. One week they last. I saw them talking, so they said. "I better go and learn a trade". If you want to be good, you have to train every day.

So it's the discipline

And I tell you what, up to now I used to do that. Look I felt terrific! I stopped exercising, so exercise keeps you young. It's the best thing in life. I was a sportsman, I love sport, I love exercise, I still do and that's what keeps me alive you know.

Well you've obviously contributed a lot to the sport in South Australia, Adelaide, Stavro and apparently you're very well know amongst the people who move in the sporting industry, so congratulations for that.

You know, I got no regrets about the Greeks, because I mean alright, if a team gives you the guernsey to play for them, you have to play, you have to be honest, and I was honest you know. I don't care what they said to me and what I heard playing soccer against Hellas, I had to play. I mean if I played for Hellas I had to play isn't it? If I played for another team, I have to play. You got to be honest.

Respect and commitment for the team

You see, you can't do that, I couldn't do that whole thing anyway.

Is there any message before we finish up Stavro, that you would like to give to young people today in regards to the sport, and any words of wisdom you would like to leave us with?

Yeah well I think I said a lot you know. If a young boy - certainly you got to have the people to show you what to do and that's you know ---We were lucky playing young. The people, the older people, the first division players, they looked after us and they

taught us how to play, to do things we were doing wrong. But these people, they loved young people coming up. What I can see today, it's a different thing. You see now, the young guys, you got to be encouraged and if you see a youngster coming up you have to help him and that help lifts him up because if I don't show you, how can you do it right? And these people, the overseas players and they love the sport. If you love the sport, you have to love the young people. Certainly there are people you cannot help, and in time they drop out but if you see a youngster coming up you have to help him. Another thing is, I'm sorry to say that, but Greek people - and I told them once - I said listen, we happened to be in one table, I said listen. "Greek people are very jealous, spectators, sorry to say that, because if you see a youngster playing, at the moment he does one mistake, you start booing him and telling him all the names, that doesn't help". Whether [whereas] different nationalities --- they encourage you and this is two different things in life. If you start telling me things and a youngster coming up, instead of lifting him up you and what the kid sees --- And that's why these people you know, I'm thankful to them I cannot say anything wrong about them.

Thank you Stavro. I think you'll be a great inspiration for young people.

It's hard you know, because I mean if you play soccer alright you play good. You know I hear names --- (laughs) from the time I was born where I grew up and I did nothing wrong (laughs).

Thank you very much indeed Stavro we wish you all the best. Thank you very much for what you've contributed to the sport. Thank you.