

“SPECIAL K’S” TAKE AUSTRALIAN OPEN DOUBLES TITLE



After entering the Australian Open Doubles Tournament on a wild card exemption, Greek-Australian teammates Nick Kyrgios and Thanasis Kokkinakis took home the title with a 7-5, 6-4 straight sets win over Matt Ebden and Max Purcell on Saturday in Melbourne.

The two longtime friends became the first homegrown

Aussies to win the doubles tournament in 25 years, in only their 4th Grand Slam event as teammates. “What a week,” said Kokkinakis. “I can honestly say we didn’t expect to come even close to this. This is a crazy cherry on the top.” Kyrgios added: “I wouldn’t have wanted to do this with anyone else.” The duo was dubbed “The Special K’s” during their run to the finals as they lost only two sets in 6 matches that included wins over the #1 and #3 ranked teams.

Nine years ago the duo won the Wimbledon junior boys’ doubles title, but have been concentrating on their singles careers since. The fiery Kyrgios’s attitude divides fans, but his love for his country and his buddy Kokkinakis have never been in dispute. Here’s to seeing more from these two!



TSITSIPAS REACHES SEMIS AT AUSSIE OPEN BUT FALLS SHORT

Stefanos Tsitsipas, who has reached a career high World #4 ranking in men’s tennis, made it all the way to the semi-finals of the new year’s first major championship, the Australian Open, but was knocked off in 4 sets by World #2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia. After a straight set win over 11th seeded Jannik Sinner of Italy in the quarterfinals, Tsitsipas was ready for his match with his rival Medvedev, though there has been bad blood for 3 years between the two. In the middle of the match between games, Medvedev unleashed a profanity-laced tirade at the umpire, complaining that Tsitsipas was receiving coaching from his father Apostolos.



Medvedev was slapped with a \$12,000 fine and after a spectacular [sting operation](#), Tsitsipas received a code violation. After splitting the first two sets, Medvedev took the final two, 6-4 and 6-1, to knock off his bitter rival. The post-match handshake was less than cordial and both parties took shots at each other in their press conferences. This rivalry between two of the best

players in the world will only intensify as they both are in their mid-twenties and should be around for awhile.

NIKOPOLIDIS DRAFTED BY MLS

Giannis Nikopolidis was drafted last week by the New York Bulls Major League Soccer team. If the name sounds familiar to you soccer fans, that's because his father, Antonis Nikopolidis, was the winning goalkeeper on Greece's 2004 Eurocup winning team. The Consulate General of Greece in New York announced the drafting of Nikopolidis with pride on their Facebook page: "A new GreekFreak is born! Congratulations to goalkeeper Giannis Nikopolidis who was the 3rd pick of the New York Bulls at the 2022 Superdraft! Son of the former goalkeeper of Greece's National Team Antonis Nikopolidis he now begins his journey at the Major League Soccer (MLS)!" Giannis has tended the goal for Georgetown University the last three years and is ready for the next challenge in his life.



“GREEK FREAK” STILL BELONGS TO GIANNIS

Giannis Antetokounmpo recently won a court case claiming that he copyrighted the phrase “The Greek Freak” and that others cannot use the phrase, thanks to his NIL deal. NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) deals have become huge in sports the last two years after the landmark court decision that now allows college student-athletes to sign deals with companies for compensation. Giannis recently sued companies that used his trademark “The Greek Freak” and his NIL on products that were being sold on Etsy, Redbubble, and others. [Here's the link](#) to a really good article from Yahoo Sports about Giannis winning his decision.

STONIE'S SPORTS HANDICAPPING

With the NFL reaching their Conference Championship games, the time to make money on NFL betting is running down. I have been red-hot in my selections lately, though not so hot in the NFL, so make sure to check out my NCAA basketball selections in which I've been terrorizing the books to the tune of 62% winners. [Here's the Youtube link](#) to my video from this past weekend. The numbers have been through the roof and with sports gambling becoming legal in more than 30 states, the reality of the situation is that sports gambling will become legal in the entire USA in the next five years. "Getting down" on some action has never been easier than it is now, so check out my video and subscribe to it so you can get notified every time a new video drops. Until then....

IF YOU WANNA WIN BIG YOU GOTTA BET BIG.

TO ME, THE ACTION IS THE JUICE.

SCARED MONEY DON'T MAKE MONEY.

THERE'S MONEY ON THE STREETS THAT CAN'T BE IGNORED.

GOODLUCK2YA!

-Stonie