

DONG FANGZHUO (FC MIKA) EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW FOR ARMENIAN-SOCCER.COM

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1. **Your contract at FC Mika is coming to an end. How would you describe your time with FC Mika? Was it a happy time for you or things did not go well?**

Dong: It was a good time here, very good teammates, I was happy here with the training and the games. But for the next year I am not sure, I have to speak with my agent.



2. **So there will not be a prolongation of your contract with Mika?**

D: I'm not sure yet. We need to finish the year and then I will speak to my agent about the next year. For now, I want to play good in the remaining four games.

3. **Probably you already know what clubs are interested in you and where you will continue your career? Any concrete offers from other clubs?**

D: I have offers but still I am not sure.

Everything is just after the season.

4. **You played in six different countries, six different leagues. How would you rate the Armenian league? Comparatively to, for example, Belgian First and Second Divisions and Poland's Ekstraklassa.**

D: Sure this league is not as strong as Belgian or Polish leagues, but here I can play football, you know, I am very happy with the training and playing here, it is good for me.



5. **So you think you have grown professionally here?**

D: Yes.

6. **What were your impressions from Armenia and FC Mika when you first came to Armenia?**

D: The first impression was that the country is very small. When I went out I saw that it is like nobody is outside, so little people. It is so quiet, because in China it is always so many people everywhere, but here it is

quiet, always a good weather. So it is good here.

7. What part of China are you from, is it a big city?



D: No I am not from a big city, but comparatively to Yerevan it is very big....

AS: Maybe bigger than the whole

Armenia.... D: Not the whole Armenia but much bigger than Yerevan.

8. **Do you feel adapted to the life in Armenia?**

D: Yes, it is normal, because I mostly stay at home, but sometimes I miss the Chinese food. However, Armenian food is very good. Sometimes I go out with my friend Vardan to eat Armenian food, I like it very much.

9. **They have Chinese restaurants here...**

D: Yes, one or two. They are very good.

10. **Those restaurants are any close to real Chinese or...?**

D: Yeah, one restaurant has food very close to the real Chinese, the one in Moskovian Street.

11. **Do you have any particular hobbies or interests apart from playing football and training? Like many footballers like their PlayStations...**

D: No... Not me. I am more into watching films.

12. **Do you go out frequently?**

D: No, not that much, only sometimes and mostly to eat.

13. **You are staying in Armenia alone, your family is in China, and could you please tell us a bit about your family.**



D: Well, my mother lives in China and my father passed away eight years ago. I am the only child in the family.

14. **How did it happen that you decided to become a professional football player? China is not known as common football destination, as we know it.**

D: Now it is good in terms of football. When I was younger I played football but never thought

to do it professionally. But when I turned 14 years old I, like almost everyone, wanted to play for Dalian Shide, because at the time it was the strongest club in China. It was like FC Pyunik here, the best club. At that time all players of my age started thinking to play professionally. So, I went

to play for Dalian Shide, it was a good chance for me. The club and the players helped me a lot to grow professionally. I am thankful to them.

15. **As far as we are concerned here in Europe, China is more like a football marketing destination. Do young Chinese players have all the conditions and all the opportunities to grow professionally and become strong footballers?**



D: Yes, I know. Now many Chinese young players are sent by their clubs to train in different clubs in Spain, Portugal, even Argentina. It is not like before when it was just one good Chinese club who took all the players and put aside the other clubs. Now there are many good players in other clubs. I think it is good for them and the whole Chinese football.

16. **Do you think that football is a sport No 1? Is it really popular?**

D: Yeah, this time, yes. Now a lot of

fans are coming back to the stadiums. I think next year it will be much better. Also the clubs want their players to play more professional, to be stronger.

17. **If you receive an offer to return to China to play for one of Chinese clubs would you accept the offer? Are you ready to go back to China for playing football there, perhaps, for some time?**

D: Yes, as I said now china's football is very good, things changed. If I have a chance to go back I will be happy to go back because at home I can show myself best to the fans.

18. **Which one is better for you, to play in Europe or to play in China to get back to the National Team?**

D: This I don't know. I think it is the same, if I play pretty good I will go the National Team. I think it is not a problem where I am playing. The problem is if I am the best or not.

19. **If Dalian Shide plays FC Mika now, who will win?**

D: Well, I think Dalian Shide is stronger.

20. **At the end of your contract do you have a preferred championship, country or a specific club where you would like to continue your player career?**

D: Well, when I was young my favorite team was Manchester United... **AS: ...and you played there....** D: ...I played there. I don't know... I was proud to be in Man United. Now Man United is still the best team for me, but where I want to play I am not sure. I now want to play good for Mika. We have a chance to go to the 2nd position.

21. The 2nd position will mean that you will be playing in Europa League next year. Will it be a good reason for you to renew your contract with Mika?



D: Yeah, I should be thinking about that, it will be good because if Mika plays in EuroCups it will give me a chance to show myself in Europe to good clubs.

22. **Well, we can only wish you every success in your future career, good**

luck in the nearest Mika games, and if you renew your contract we will be happy. Thanks for this interview.

D: Thank you.

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