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Coroner Rules George Baldock's Death a Tragic Accident

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An inquest has confirmed that professional footballer George Baldock died in a swimming pool accident at his home in Greece last October. The 31-year-old defender, who had recently signed with Panathinaikos, drowned at his property in Glyfada, near Athens. The investigation found no foul play and ruled the death accidental.

The inquest, held at Milton Keynes Coroner's Court, concluded that Baldock's cause of death was drowning. A post-mortem conducted in Greece found no traces of drugs or alcohol in his system. It also revealed that Baldock had an enlarged heart, a condition that may have made him more vulnerable to cardiac arrhythmia, a potential contributing factor in the incident.

Greek authorities who responded to the scene reportedly attempted resuscitation without success. Police found no evidence of suspicious circumstances, confirming the fatality was not linked to any criminal activity.

Senior coroner Tom Osborne described the incident as a tragic accident. "This was a terrible event that claimed the life of a much-loved individual in the prime of his life," he said.

Baldock, who was born in Buckinghamshire, had only recently made the move to Panathinaikos, one of Greece's most prominent football clubs, after spending seven years with Sheffield United. Just three days before his death, he played in a goalless draw against Olympiacos, one of Panathinaikos' fiercest rivals.

He had earned a call-up to the Greek national team earlier in 2024, qualifying through his grandmother, and quickly became a fan favourite for his energetic style and professionalism on and off the pitch.

Baldock's career began with Milton Keynes Dons (MK Dons), where he made over 100 appearances between 2009 and 2017. He then joined Sheffield United, helping the team gain promotion to the English Premier League during a standout spell that made him a regular fixture in their defence.

Following the news of his passing, Baldock's family released a heartfelt statement describing him as a devoted father, fiancé, son, and teammate. "Your enthusiasm and infectious personality brought so much love to those that were fortunate enough to know you and those that adored you from the stands," the statement read. "You will continue to live on in your beautiful son."

The inquest offers finality in a case that shocked the footballing world. While his life was tragically cut short, Baldock's legacy as a hardworking professional and dedicated family man will endure, both in England and in Greece, where he had just begun a new chapter of his career.