

THE WORST EVER

STORIES FROM FOOTBALL'S PAST

What's the biggest score your team has ever lost by? Way back in 1885, a team called Bon Accord lost to Arbroath by a record score of 36-0!



Don't put your head in your hands keeper, you'll drop it!



1. FOOTBALL NOBS

Bon Accord were a young team from Aberdeen who hadn't played many previous matches. Some reports said they were really a cricket or rugby team who had only recently decided to try football.

When they were drawn against the experienced Arbroath in the Scottish Cup, Bon Accord were underdogs. Most fans expected them to lose, but no one expected them to go down in history as British football's biggest-ever losers.

WORLD'S BIGGEST & DEFEAT!



2. RAINING GOALS

The match was played at Arbroath's **Gayfield Park** on a wet and windy Saturday afternoon. Bon Accord kicked off, but Arbroath immediately won possession, surged forward and scored. "This was the beginning of a one-sided game," said a newspaper match report.

Arbroath scored 15 goals in the first half and 21 in the second half. Winger **John Petrie** was the game's top scorer with 13 goals. Arbroath goalkeeper **Jim Milne** never touched the ball. He spent the entire game sheltering from the rain under an umbrella!



The 36-0 scoreline could have been even worse for Bon Accord. The referee disallowed seven more Arbroath goals for what he later admitted were "very doubtful" offsides. It seemed the ref had taken pity on Bon Accord. If those goals had stood, it would've been 43-0!

3. REMEMBER THE NAME

Amazingly, on the very same day, in another Scottish Cup match being played just a few miles down the road, **Dundee Harp** beat **Aberdeen Rovers** 35-0. The Harp players and officials were convinced they'd chalked up a record score until they heard the news that Arbroath had outscored them by a single goal!



Dundee Harp and Aberdeen Rovers no longer exist and are now forgotten. Arbroath are in **Scottish League One**, and still celebrate "the 36-0". Bon Accord went out of business not long after the famous defeat, but more than 130 years later their name is still fondly remembered by football fans around the world – proving once and for all that winning isn't everything!