

Charlotte remains undefeated in MLFS

By RON REAL

The world of semipro football swung into action last week with several leagues opening their seasons.

The Hearts of Ohio Football League, based in Columbus, opened its season with the Mustangs of Springfield blasting the first-year Ross County Rebels of Chillicothe 24-3. The Columbus Battle Stars-Louisville Bulls' tilt was rescheduled to a later date due to stadium conflicts.

The Bulls are reportedly seeking permission to jump from the Hearts of Ohio League to the Ohio Valley Football League in Cincinnati. The Ohio Valley League, beginning its 16th year in operation, begins its schedule Sept. 9 with a tripleheader. The addition of the Bulls, who were an independent team last year, would create numerous scheduling conflicts.

In Northern Chicagoland action, the DuPage Eagles blanked the Tinley Park Pride 33-0 while the Chicago Panthers beat the Chargers 15-3. The Chicago Apaches defeated the Chicago Heights Broncos. The Park Ridge Giants and Chicago Hurricanes played to a 6-6 tie.

The Chicago Heights Broncos discovered a unique way to win a football game. During their recent 16-14 victory over Louisville in an exhibition game, the Broncos earned the margin of victory with a safety. Not unusual, you say? Well, the safety was scored when the Broncos chased the Bull quarterback back from his own 35-yard line and nailed him eight yards deep in the

endzone. A backward scramble of 43 yards must have winded 80 per cent of the players on the field.

Dick Suess' Oregon Thunderbolts continue their mastery over Northwest Football League teams. The T-Bolts rolled to their fourth consecutive victory this year with a 50-0 pasting of the Seattle Raiders. The Pierce County Bengals edged the Washington Warhawks 16-12 last weekend.

There were no surprises in the Minor

League Football System last week. The undefeated Charlotte Barons cruised to another solid victory, shutting out Bob Shaw's Virginia Storm 52-0. The Pueblo Crusaders and the Colorado Springs Spirit both won. Pueblo defeated the previously unbeaten St. Louis Gamblers 43-30, and the Spirits knocked off the Pocono Mountaineers 28-9. Both members of the California connection won — Hayward edged Harrisburg 20-17 and San Jose blasted the Seattle Express 30-13. Florida was idle in league action but picked up a convincing win over a Houston semipro team in an exhibition tilt.

In Midwest Football League action, the Lake County Vikings upset the St. Louis Metro Stars 32-6, while the Racine Raiders defeated Milwaukee 30-20.

In the Texas League, the league-leading Cowtown Cowboys destroyed the Grayson County Gunslingers 46-6. Meanwhile, the Duncanville Wildcats squeaked by the Texas Mustangs 9-5, and the Tarrant County Raiders shut out the Dallas Stars 26-0.

NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

Sample

The Minor League Semipro Top 40 (As compiled by the American Football Association)		
Rk	Team	League
1.	Scranton Eagles (Empire)	
2.	Charlotte Barons (MLFS)	
3.	Oregon Thunderbolts (NWF)	
4.	Brooklyn Mariners (Mid-East)	
5.	Pueblo Crusaders (MLFS)	
6.	Colorado Springs Spirits (MLFS)	
7.	St. Louis Gamblers (MLFS)	
8.	Cow Town Cowboys (Texas)	
9.	DuPage Eagles (Chicagoland)	
10.	Syracuse GP Express (Empire)	
11.	Middleboro Cobras (Eastern)	
12.	Racine Raiders (Midwest)	
13.	San Jose Bandits (MLFS)	
14.	Marlboro Shamrocks (Eastern)	
15.	Brooklyn Kings (Mid-East)	
16.	Chicago Apaches (Chicagoland)	
17.	Hayward Outlaws (MLFS)	
18.	Randolph Oilers (Eastern)	
19.	Worcester Co. Tigers (Eastern)	
20.	Springfield Mustangs (HOFL)	
21.	Pierce County Bengals (NWF)	
22.	Snohomish Co. Blue Knights (NWF)	
23.	Charlestown Townies (Eastern)	
24.	Ontario Crush (Independent)	
25.	Albany Metro Mallars (Empire)	
26.	Watertown Red & Black (Empire)	
27.	Seattle Express (MLFS)	
28.	Harrisburg Patriots (MLFS)	
29.	Pocono Mountaineers (MLFS)	
30.	Florida Renegades (MLFS)	
31.	Palos-Orland Force (Midwest)	
32.	Rhode Island Rhinos (Eastern)	
33.	Louisville Bulls (HOFL)	
34.	Johnstown Colonials (Empire)	
35.	Chicago Chargers (Chicagoland)	
36.	Glens Falls Greenjackets (Empire)	
37.	Duncanville Wildcats (Texas)	
38.	Washington Warhawks (NWF)	
39.	Chicago Hs. Broncos (Chicagoland)	
40.	New Jersey Oaks (Mid-Atlantic)	

Teams should report their scores to the AFIA national office by Monday noon after each week's games. Call (312) 279-4808 or