

strained Faulk, his voice barely audible over the roar of about 2,500 fans, who lined the fences and filled the stands for the third straight night. "I knew once I got past that we'd be all right."

Post 10 jumped ahead for good with a two-run first in winning the series 4-1.

Shawn Gallagher, as he's done all year, started the surge with a sharp single to left. He moved to second on a sacrifice bunt, and after Chris Moore was hit by a pitch, both scored on Faulk's two-out, two-run double to the gap in left center.

"I've struggled a little," Faulk continued. "The first inning wasn't my best, so I wanted to show my best. We scored some runs, and I knew I had to shut them down."

Although Post 10 provided its ace pitcher with seven additional runs, including Gal-

lagher's two-out solo home run in the second, Faulk needed no more offensive support.

"With him on the mound," said Kernersville's John Hendricks, "he plays at such a high level he challenges his teammates to play well. He's in cruise control from pitch one. You play to the level of your teammates, and they know if they give him a lead he's going to hold it."

After allowing a leadoff single in the second, Faulk finished Kernersville's season by retiring 24 of its 26 final hitters. He threw seven innings of no-hit baseball.

In fact, Faulk hit Kernersville as hard as it hit him; the only two runners who got on base the final seven innings were hit by pitches.

Again, Kernersville miscues played a decisive role. Ben Hobbs was hit by a pitch and T.J. DeFrancisco was awarded an infield single on what should have been a sacrifice bunt. Gallagher walked to load the bases.

Two runs scored on Chris LaMarsh's ground out and Chris Moore's single drove in the final run of the series.

Post 10 will play Georgia at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 19, in Gainesville, Fla., in the first round of the double-elimination regional tournament. The winner of the tournament advances to the World Series, which Post 10 qualified for in 1970, when it finished third in the nation.

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Post 10 210 120 03x — 9 8 1
Starrett, Harper (3), Myers (4), Beeson (8), Hendricks (8), Manning (8) and Sapp; Faulk and Southerland. WP—Faulk. LP—Starrett. 2B—Faulk (Post 10), Pigott (10), Southerland (10), Moore (10). HR—Gallagher (10).

Fehr also said players were prepared for a work stoppage to continue indefinitely. He said it was a mistake for some teams to predict that players would alter their opposition and accept a cap after two missed paychecks, which would be Sept. 15.

That notion is said to have been mentioned by some team executives in recent days, but Fehr dismissed it as "fantasyland."

"It suggest to me people on the other side don't know what they're doing or are incredibly gullible," he said. "If they believe players will panic in a week or two, I have bridges to sell them."

A FIFTH MAJOR SPORT? / But U.S. players may still be overseas

Soccer league can survive in baseball's shadow

Act one earned rave reviews. Now, the big question is whether the players in act two can keep the curtain from falling too early.

The World Cup, soccer's biggest spectacle, did well in its month in the United States. Few tickets went unsold, and television ratings exceeded even the rosiest predictions. The overall attendance far exceeded that of the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Score one for those who thought that the U.S. multiethnic culture and corporate clout would override American soccer apathy. But those same people will be anxious in 1995.

Major League Soccer, a new professional league whose mission is to make soccer the fifth major American sport, is due to start in April. And while many are happy with the World Cup's success, this isn't the World Cup.

The league won't even have the services of the charismatic Cup underdogs, the U.S. players. The list of players with overseas contracts must be painful to MLS. TV-friendly Alexi Lalas and Cobi Jones, among others, turned their Cup success into European contracts. Ernie Stewart, who scored the most important goal in U.S. history

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against Colombia, is going back to Holland. John Harkes and Tab Ramos are established stars in Europe. And goalkeeper Tony Meola, who said this year that he wanted to play in MLS, may be busy in the NFL.

When asked about MLS, the players provide a Catch-22: If it can stay healthy, we'd love to, come home and play. But can the league stay healthy without the U.S. stars?

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It can, with a big "if": If it sticks to its moderate goals.

The old North American Soccer League spent itself into oblivion. The New York Cosmos bought a fantastic team, then withered as the league's owners bailed out in the face of huge payrolls.

That's less likely to happen to MLS. When the league starts, the league will own all of

the teams. This may be a little authoritarian for Americans, but it seems like a good idea as the small-market/large-market disparity wrecks baseball.

The Pele-stature players (Brazil's Romario, Italy's Roberto Baggio) won't be here. But MLS might still get recognizable World Cup players such as Swedish goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, who made a spectacular save on a penalty kick to send his team to the semifinals and has already expressed interest in MLS. And the U.S. talent pool, as shown by the World Cup performance, is better than ever.

Instead of rattling around in football stadiums it can't fill, the league is seeking smaller stadiums — 20,000 to 30,000 capacity. The Long Island team will play at Hofstra Stadium (22,000) until a new soccer-specific stadium is built. New Jersey will play in Giants Stadium but will drape off the upper decks for a cozier atmosphere.

MLS also has a healthy multiyear television contract. ESPN2 will carry 25 games next year, ESPN 10, and the championship will be on ABC.

Miss the international flavor of soccer? No problem. Each team will play six games

against international teams in addition to its 28 regular-season games.

Best of all, the league is walking that fine line between necessary change and gimmicks. The U.S. Interregional Soccer League, a loose conglomeration of 72 teams in eight regions that will serve as a minor league for MLS, is experimenting with a variety of rule changes that shouldn't make the game unrecognizable: free kicks after seven fouls, bigger goals, shorter corner kicks, etc.

MLS won't compete with baseball. It shouldn't. Its only competition may be from other soccer leagues, including the American Professional Soccer League, which drew almost 9,000 people for its season opener even with U.S. Soccer trying to push it away. The APSL's Los Angeles Salsa, taking its cue from NAFTA rather than the NASL, will also compete in the Mexican First Division next season.

As hockey has flourished in basketball's shadow, soccer can survive in baseball's. Then maybe Lalas, Harkes and company can come home.

Beau Dure is a copy editor for the Morning Star.