

JOE ROTH

.... The Memory Lives On

Today's contest against the Southern California Trojans marks the 5th Annual Joe Roth Memorial Game. Over six years have now passed since Roth first graced the football field on behalf of the University of California. His exploits on the gridiron are recorded in the Cal record books, but the memories of those fortunate enough to have known or met Joe are what will live forever.

The statistics are easy to pick out. The Bears in 1975 had the nation's most explosive and best balanced offense, gaining 2,522 yards through the air and the same number on the ground. Calling upon Chuck Muncie to run, Steve Rivera to catch and a talented offensive line for protection, Joe could turn to Wesley Walker to make the bomb a regular event.

Joe had four games in which he passed for 200-plus yards, and he picked Washington apart for 24 completions in 36 attempts, 380 yards and four touchdowns. Those in attendance will probably never forget Cal's most significant football victory in two decades when Roth directed the Bears to a stunning 28-14 victory over the USC Trojans. Joe finished the game with 19 completions in 31 attempts for 244 yards and two touchdowns.

A crowd of 58,811 was on hand in Memorial Stadium that afternoon to

watch the Golden Bears' explosive offense confront a USC squad which was unbeaten in 18 games and had a string of 28 in a row without a defeat in the Pac-8.

Roth's 16-yard touchdown pass to Wesley Walker made it 7-0 in the second quarter and a fierce goal-line stand enabled the underdog Bears to enter the locker room with a 7-7 halftime tie before a national television audience.

Roth drove the Bears 80 yards after the second-half kickoff to put Cal ahead, 14-7, with a touchdown pass to tight end George Freitas. USC tied the score again, but Cal went ahead to stay when Roth capped an 87-yard march by going over from the one early in the final period.

In 1976, Roth picked up where he left off in '75 in the opener against Georgia (21/36, 379 yards) and Oklahoma (27/46, 284 yards). An 88-yard pass play executed with Walker against Georgia still stands in the Cal record book as the longest pass play from scrimmage.

Yet it was not his actions on the field that distinguished Joe, but rather his human qualities off it.

Last year's fifth-year seniors were the last group of players to be teammates of Roth's, but Joe's pride, courage and warmth has not been



Joe was distinguished more by his human qualities off the athletic field.

forgotten on the team. The way he fought cancer and dealt with death has been an inspiration to victims of that disease throughout the world.

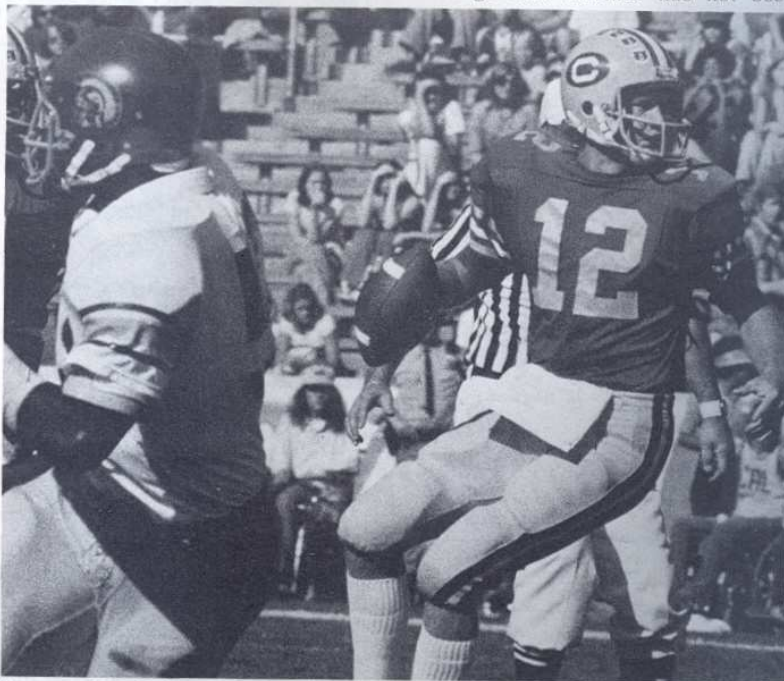
"Joe was a phenomenal guy, showing great courage and a great desire to live," said Cal's Athletic Director Dave Maggard. "To the end he never gave up. The awareness of how he wanted to handle his death was a help to those near him. The way he accepted things made everyone tougher and stronger. Joe Roth was an All-American boy. When I think of him, his athletic ability is inconsequential."

There are not enough adjectives in the dictionary or pages in this program to describe Joe Roth. Three words that contain a lot of meaning are faith, humility and courage. An exceptional athlete, he never wanted to be thought of as anything but plain old Joe.

CORRECTION

Thirteen pages further on, Cal's assistant coaches are pictured. Two of them are erroneously identified. Since that section has already been printed for the entire season, we can only apologize for the miscue and identify them correctly below.

—The editors



It was against USC in 1975 that Roth directed Cal to a stunning upset.



Ray Sherman
Running Backs



Mike Haluchak
Inside Linebackers