

# JOE ROTH MEMORIAL GAME



**T**oday's football contest between UCLA and California has been designated as the 2006 Joe Roth Memorial Game in honor of the former Golden Bear quarterback. The only jersey ever retired by the California football program is the No. 12 worn by Roth, who quarterbacked the Bears during the 1975 and 1976 seasons.

Shortly after his senior campaign in 1976, Joe Roth courageously battled cancer before he passed away in his Berkeley apartment on February 19, 1977. This annual game with Cal's southern California opponent recognizes Joe Roth and his competitive spirit, courage and sportsmanship. To honor Joe Roth today, California players will be wearing the No. 12 on their helmets. Joe's parents, Lawrence and Lena, plus his coach at Cal, Mike White, will be honorary team captains.

As the quarterback for White's 1975 squad, Roth directed Cal to an 8-3 record and the Pac-8 Co-Championship when the Bears led the nation in total offense with an average of 458 yards per game. A first-team All-American in 1976, Roth's enormous ability on the football field, friendly openness and humble manner, combined with the courage he showed in facing his illness, made him one of the most popular players ever to wear the Blue and Gold.

Roth still holds the Cal record for longest touchdown pass, an 88-yard hook-up with Wesley Walker against Georgia in 1976. His No. 12 jersey was retired during a ceremony on October 29, 1977 prior to the USC game, which Cal won, 17-14. A 2000 inductee into the California Athletic Hall of Fame, Roth is remembered with a special display in the Cal football locker room.



*Clockwise from top left: Joe Roth led the 1975 California squad to a share of the Pacific-8 Conference title. The Joe Roth display in the Cal football locker room. A photo of Roth taken by Cal team physician Dr. Jerry Patmont prior to the 1977 Japan Bowl all-star game. Roth sitting between star receiver Wesley Walker and fellow quarterback Fred Besana (photo by Jim Yudelson). A copy of Lena Roth's book – Joe: His Fight for Life.*



About the Author

The book was written by her mother, who has long been inspired by Joe's life. She has read the book to her children and has encouraged them to read it, too. She has also read it to her grandchildren and has encouraged them to read it, too.

The author was born and raised in Berkeley, California. She graduated from high school and business college, she worked in the office of a wholesale shoe company, and she has been a full-time mother since her husband's death. She has three children, she now resides with her husband in Berkeley, California.

JOE: His Fight for Life

Lena Roth

## JOE: His Fight for Life



Lena Roth

