

Joe Roth, 21, Dies After Long Fight With Cancer

BERKELEY (AP)—University of California quarterback Joe Roth died Saturday at his apartment after a long fight against a rare form of cancer, a UC Medical Center spokesman reported.

Suffering from a highly virulent form of cancer called malignant melanoma, Roth was hospitalized at the Cancer Research Institute of UC San Francisco Feb. 10. At his own request, he was discharged last Thursday and allowed to go home, where he remained under the care of his physician, Dr. Michael A. Friedman.

There will be a Mass of Resurrection and memorial services Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Newman Hall at the university.

Roth leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Roth of Jerome, Idaho, and two brothers, Tom of Seattle and John of La Jolla.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that contributions be made to the Joe Roth Melanoma Research Fund care of the UC San Francisco Cancer Research Institute.

After it was revealed early this year that Roth was fighting cancer a second time, he said: "It didn't come



Joe Roth

as any great shock. You always know once you have it that there's a chance it may crop up again.

"If everyone starts coming up and feeling sorry for me, I'm afraid it will start making me feel that same way. I mean, I fear I won't be the same Joe Roth anymore. Instead, I'll be Joe Roth underdog, the guy everybody feels sorry for. I don't want that.

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JOE ROTH IS DEAD

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"Really, just figure I'm a normal guy. What if some guy sitting down there on the street corner got cancer? Would everybody make a big fuss?"

Three years ago, when he was a football player at Grossmont Junior College, Roth noticed a bleeding scar on the left side of his face. He thought it was caused by his football helmet rubbing against the skin.

It was cancer, a biopsy revealed, and Roth underwent an operation which left a four-inch scar on his neck.

Late in the 1976 football season, a disappointing one for Roth after his sensational year as a junior, the quarterback noticed a lump on his chest. An examination revealed it was a recurrence of the cancer and he began receiving chemotherapy treatment.

Roth, in a weakened condition because of the chemotherapy, suffered back spasms which kept him out of the post-season East-West all-star game Jan. 2. He was able to play some, however, in the Hula Bowl the following week.

"I'm just tremendously amazed at the amount of courage he's shown under the circumstances," Cal Coach Mike White said.

Jim Symington, who was Roth's football coach at Granite Hills High near San Diego and later an assistant at Grossmont, paid this tribute:

"He's the type of guy who exemplified everything a coach enjoys working with. He always has been exceptional . . . He was such a mature young man, capable of handling all the honors he got and still keeping everything in its proper perspective—a typical All-American-style kid, but not like the heroes of today, or many of them, who think only about what's in it for me.

"After his first year at Cal, he came to our awards banquet and didn't talk about what he had done, but what others had done to help him along in his career. That's typical of the attitude he's always had."
