

## A LOW-KEY TRIBUTE

# Bears Dedicate Season to Joe Roth

BERKELEY (UPI) — In a quiet way, the University of California football team is dedicating its season to the late Joe Roth.

The only visible reminder the players have of their former quarterback, who died suddenly last February of a virulent form of cancer, is a round, two-inch, black and white sleeve patch sewn onto their uniforms.

The patch bears Roth's uniform number, 12, in the center, with the words "faith-humility-courage" around the perimeter.

"We had talked about remembering Joe in some way this season — something befitting the type of person Joe was," coach Mike White recently said in talking about the low-keyed tribute. "We wanted something natural, not showy."

"Basically, it is a quiet remembrance of Joe and what he stood for," added athletic director Dave Maggard. "It was the idea of the players on the squad. They didn't say too much about it. It never was meant to be a big deal but it is appropriate. Those who knew Joe Roth had an awful lot of respect for him."

"When I read the eulogy of Joe's funeral, faith, humility and courage were the words I used to describe him," continued White. "Those were the things Joe Roth always displayed at all times — faith, humility and courage."

"We just took it from there and that's how this 'silent tribute' evolved. We wanted to show it in a silent way because that's the way Joe Roth would have wanted it. It is our way or remembering him each and every week."

There have been outside requests for the patch but White said they have been turned down.

"That's not our intention," he said. "Frankly, I hope it doesn't snowball. I don't think Joe was the kind of guy who would have wanted it run up on a flagpole. That's why we're keeping it only with the football team."

In paying tribute to Roth, UC's sports information director John McCasey said, "We in the California athletic department feel very fortunate to have had such a person as Joe Roth touch our lives. Certainly none of us will ever forget this exceptional human being and the outstanding qualities that such a young person possessed. He showed us courage in the face of adversity, modesty in all the adulation his

football exploits gained him and responsibility that goes with being an All-American quarterback and a fine student."

California has designated the Oct. 29 game against USC as the Joe Roth Memorial Game with a portion of the gate proceeds going to the Melanoma Research Foundation.

The memory of Roth already has extended to the Far East. Recently, the Sports Nippon newspapers of Tokyo announced the 1978 Japan Bowl will be played in honor of Roth, whose last appearance in a uniform was in the game last January.

A month later, he was dead of melanoma.