

# Cal Quarterback Joe Roth Again Fighting Off Cancer

BERKELEY (AP)—University of California quarterback Joe Roth, selected for three postseason football bowls, has confirmed that he is fighting cancer for the second time in three years.

"I don't want to talk too much about it," Roth said, when reached in Honolulu where he is preparing for this weekend's Hula Bowl. "But I'll say that I've been having treatments for a few weeks and things are looking real good.

"I've had the stuff before so it's not that big a deal for me," he said.

Roth, 21, confirmed he has been receiving cancer treatment at UC Medical Center in San Francisco after discovering several lumps under the skin of his chest in December. Almost three years ago, Roth had a malignant growth removed from his neck.

"I feel all right," Roth said. "I had the flu and lost some weight. And my back is better. I practiced today and if it gets a little better, I think I'll be able to play Saturday and next week in the Japan Bowl."

The 6-4, 205-pound quarterback was held out of Sunday's East-West Shrine game at Stanford with back spasms.

Roth's physician, Dr. Michael Friedman, a specialist in UC's cancer research center, would say only that Roth was being given X-ray treatment. "Other than that, anything would have to come from Joe," he said.

Following his freshman year at Grossmont Junior College in El Cajon, Calif., Roth was bothered by a mole, later diagnosed as black mole cancer. Doctors removed five ounces of tissue.

Roth went on to become a passing



Joe Roth

star at Cal. In a brilliant junior year, he led California to a share of the Pacific-8 Conference championship, completing 126 passes in 226 attempts for 1,880 yards and 14 touchdowns—eighth in the nation in passing and ninth in total offense. In a game against Washington, he threw for a school record—385 yards and four touchdowns. Despite many injuries this season, he completed 154 passes in 295 attempts, for 1,789 yards.

Roth—who was considered a Heisman Trophy candidate and a first-round pro draft choice before the 1976 season—says he still hopes to be drafted by the professionals.

"I never expected to get this far," he said. "I'm just happy to be alive and happy to be here.

"I can feel this scar under my ear and realize what's really most important in life."