

Cal Quarterback Roth Dies

BERKELEY, Calif., Feb. 19 (AP)—University of California quarterback Joe Roth died today at his apartment here after a long fight against a rare form of cancer, a University of California Medical Center spokesman reported.

The spokesman said Mr. Roth, 21, died at 3:55 p.m. His family, friends and Cal coach Mike White were at his bedside.

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

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

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

He then returned to San Francisco for more treatment.

In 1975, Mr. Roth's first season at Cal, he broke several school passing records and had a 380-yard passing performance against Washington. He finished the season with a 55 per cent completion record, 1,880 yards and 14 touchdowns passing for the Bears team which tied UCLA for the Pacific-8 championship.