

# Cal's Roth Takes Strike Two Bravely

By Byron Rosen

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When ABC-TV previewed NCAA football '76 in September, feature-profile treatment was accorded Joe Roth, the California (Berkeley) quarterback who had licked cancer and on the strength of a super junior year shaped up as your surefire all-America passer. Maybe Mr. Heisman 1976.

Joe Roth has cancer again.

Following his freshman year at Grossmont Junior College in El Cajon, Calif., three years ago, the Idaho farm lad learned the mole on his neck was malignant—black mole cancer. Doctors removed five ounces of tissue and thought, as time went on, he was healed.

Now, Roth—who had a good, but not record-breaking year because he lost his ace receiver, Wesley Walker, to injury most of the season and he was dogged by various hurts—is undergoing chemotherapy at UC Medical Center in San Francisco. He discovered several lumps under the skin of his chest last month.

The 6-foot-4, 205-pound Roth was held out of Sunday's East-West Shrine game at Stanford—back spasms, it was explained. But he has clearance to play in this weekend's Hula Bowl and the ensuing Japan Bowl (where Navy's George Welsh and Maryland's Jerry Claiborne will be on the East coaching staff).

## FanFare

Says Roth, in Honolulu and still hoping for a shot in the NFL: "... things are looking real good. I've had the stuff before so it's not that big of a deal for me. I feel all right. I never expected to get this far. 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" . . .

Sorry about this, but—h-e-e-e-r-e's Johnny. Again!!!

Today's Johnny on the spot is Johnny Miller, upon whom all eyes focus because the 1977 PGA Tour commences today, with the \$200,000 Phoenix Open. And if the spot is Phoenix, or Tucson, the spotlight is on Desert John, who perennially cleans up on the golf opposition in cactus country. It's the start of a circuit of Deane Beman Domain of 40-plus events stretching through October, at least, with minimum purse of \$9.3 million. And 29 of those tournaments will be on the tube, beginning with Saturday-Sunday coverage out of Phoenix Country Club's 6,726-yard, par-71 (sometimes said to have a 6,726-yard, par-71 (sometimes for Miller) layout—early finish scheduled for the final round to avoid conflict with NBC's Super Bowl. . .

Hot stoving right along, Cincinnati shortstop Dave Concepcion—with a extra time to think on it—has sent agent Jerry Kapstein word from Caracas to pry a three-year, \$500,000 contract out of the Reds or it's adios after he plays out his option in 1977. Concepcion proved he can put his actions where his mouth is when he struck an umpire in a Venezuelan winter league dispute in November; that's why he doesn't have shortstopping with the Aragua Tigres to take his mind off Yanqui dollars, he's suspended.

Small world, a recent FanFare mentioned baseball prospects Steve Farr and Bill Foley, and separately gave Jack Hoffman a call as new president of the area umpires association. Hoffman—principal of Capitol Page School, which live and learn, is a D.C. public school—coached both boys, in separate years, on Maryland State champion Babe Ruth 15-year-old teams, and thank you, Jack. . .

If Ted Turner isn't running the Atlanta Braves, now Bowie Kuhn suspended Mr. Flamboyant as operating owner, Jeff Burroughs would never know it. The new Brave slugger by way of the Texas Rangers nee Washingtons was unhappy about it until he visited Atlanta on Wednesday and his two-year contract was extended and probably like the years along with what Turner termed "other adjustments." Turner, Burroughs' fiancée, who accompanied him on a tour of the Georgia city. . . Gov. George Busbee and Richard Kattel, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce president, meanwhile called on commissioner Kuhn to have a heart—Turner's suspension is "the ultimate in punitive overkill, nothing short of an outrage, could damage the forward thrust" of baseball and all pro sports in Mr. Carter's old locale. . .

**UNCAGED**—Bad news, Penn Staters, Nittany's top rebounder and scorer, Chris Erichsen out of Harpers Ferry, W.Va., is sidelined at least three weeks with a foot fracture just as Eastern Eight action begins. . . Independent Fordham, whose 4-6 record matches PSU's, is out its two top scorers, seniors Stan Frankoff and Kevin Fallon, quitting for personal reasons. . . Bernard Vaughn, starting and averaging 11 points for 0-7 Cornell, has been jailed without bail on charges of first-degree rape; they picked him up on the Ithaca, N.Y., campus after the Big Red's 93-61 loss to Syracuse—and, coincidentally (?) the alleged offense was committed on a Syracuse coed late last year. Vaughn, a senior from Lanham in Prince George's, was arraigned on an apparently unrelated sex charge in November.

**UP AGAINST THE WALL**—Uncovered, already: two 2x3-foot Mickey Mantle posters, one in D.C., one in Falls Church. Each of them bought at least six years ago.