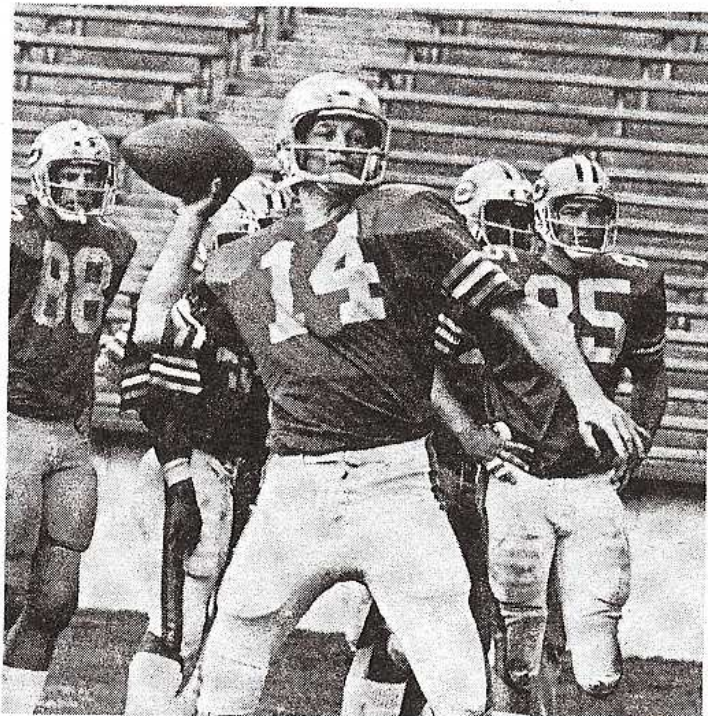


Spring Football Begins—Search For Another Bart



TRUE GRID . . . While most sane people toss Frisbees and play softball in the Berkeley springtime, Cal quarterback candidate Joe Roth prepares to unleash the ball during one of the Bears' spring football practices.

By JON ROCHMIS
and BOB MANSBACH

After a disgusting two weeks of rain, hail and miserable spirits, the recent magnificent sunshine gave us our first indication that spring is finally here. And with the sparkling blue skies urging everyone to skip classes comes the inevitable arrival of football.

That's right—football. As hockey and basketball enter into their respective second seasons of playoff action and baseball begins to dominate the summertime headlines, spring football practice at Cal debuted a couple of weeks ago with the long-term objective of getting to the Rose Bowl come January 1, 1976.

The gridders are high on experience, enthusiasm and energy, but in order to smell roses next New Year's Day they'll have to find a replacement for All-American quarterback Steve Bartkowski. That's about as easy as succeeding John Wooden at UCLA.

Coach Mike White, who embarks on his third season at the helm when Cal opens up at Colorado on September 13, is using much of the spring practice to look at Fred Besana, Joe Roth, Mark Cahill and Mike Williams, and determine who has the inside track for the job.

"After this first week of practice a fairly even battle is taking place," White said. "I don't know who's number one right now, but they all did some good from what I've seen in the scrimmages."

Cal enjoyed an excellent recruiting season following its Cinderella-like 7-3-1 record, and came up with sensational JC quarterback who just might give the Bears the impetus they need.

His name is Joe Roth, a 6-4, 205 pound behemoth from Grossmont JC. In a banner season last fall, Roth completed a sizzling 211 of 370 passes for 2663 yards and 28 touchdowns, was selected conference player of the year, made All-State and All-American first team JC, and was the most valuable player in the Division II state playoffs. His credentials forced one observer to remark, "Steve who?"

But Roth by no means has the inside track on the job. He'll be getting a strong challenge from Besna, a 6-4, 190 pound senior who redshirted last year. Besana has an incredible arm, is faster than Bart (although who isn't?) and he is familiar with White's pro-style offense.

Since Roth is a newcomer to Cal, he realizes that there are pressures on

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him to understand the system quickly. "I feel I'm at a disadvantage as far as what's going on," he said. "I hope come opening day I'll be starting, but I realize that those are the other quarterback's goals, too."

Sports Today

BASEBALL — Cal hosts Cal State Hayward, Evans Diamond, 2:30 p.m.
WOMEN'S TENNIS — Cal hosts UC Davis, Hearst Courts, 4:00 p.m.
MEN'S TENNIS — Cal hosts UC Santa Barbara, 3 p.m.

The other two candidates are Williams and Cahill. Williams has the rare qualities of being able to both run and throw capably, while Cahill, Bart's backup last year, has looked very impressive in the scrimmages.

"I think my chances to start are real good," Cahill said. "Just the experience last year playing behind Steve helps and coming here without knowing the system doesn't help Joe. It takes at least a year to get to know the system," adding, "I will get the starting job."

One thing White will have to remember is the inherent problems in a platoon system. In 1973, the Bears alternated Bartkowski and Vince Ferragamo, and the results were disastrous. The team lacked a definite leader — so important in college football — and consequently the team suffered. White should name a starting quarterback soon, or at least in early summer, so that the squad will have a chance to get accustomed to the quarterback.

Whoever the quarterback is will have some mighty good receivers. Coming back are All-American candidates Steve Rivera and Wesley Walker, plus tight ends George Freitas and Roy Fieberger. Anyone who witnessed a Cal game last year may know that Rivera has hands like Fred Biletnikoff, Walker has Bob Hayes speed, and Freitas, still a freshman, is as tough as a mule.

At running back the name is Chuck Muncie. Since Mark Bailey dropped out and ruined a promising career at Cal, Muncie will handle Cal's ground attack. Cal also

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SLOW