



FRESHMAN QUARTERBACK Joe Roth has been burning the Grossmont College record book this year. The Griffin signal-caller has connected on 129 of 229 passes for 1,307 yards and 10 touchdowns. His number of completions is a

school record and he needs only to attempt nine passes Saturday in Riverside to set another Grossmont passing mark. His yardage places him fourth among Grossmont passers.

Daily Californian Photo by Russ Gilbert

## Griffin's Interception Rate Low

# Q-Back Posts Air Mark

By BILL DICKENS  
The Daily Californian

EL CAJON — The first two passes Joe Roth threw as a college football player were two he'll remember for the rest of his life.

However, they are not indicative of what kind of season the 6-foot-3, 177-pound freshman quarterback is having at Grossmont College this fall.

"I wasn't too sure how good junior college competition would be," the Granite Hills High School graduate said. "But when I was playing in the summer college football passing league it didn't take me long to find out.

"The first pass I threw was in a game with San Diego City College," Roth recalled. "It was intercepted. After that, I said to myself, 'be more careful.'

"The second pass I threw was also intercepted. I was a little shook up."

At the time, Roth was battling sophomores Dennis Core and Pat Tormey along with freshman Art Spahr for the starting quarterback job.

"I wasn't too impressive in the summer," Roth admitted. "When I came to Grossmont I thought for sure that I'd be a back-up quarterback."

Turning down a four-year scholarship to the University of California-Riverside, Roth, an all-San Diego County pick, quickly saw the competition fall by the wayside. Both Core and Tormey quit for personal reasons, while Spahr had been moved to wide receiver.

The 1973 season has belonged exclusively to Roth. No one else on the Griffin roster has thrown a pass.

"I'm just glad to be playing regularly," he said. "I'm also very happy with our passing offense. We have fewer plays than we did in high school, but they are executed very well."

Through the first nine games this year, Roth has completed 129 of 229 passes for 1,307 yards and 10 touchdowns. What's really impressive, is the fact that he's only been intercepted nine times. And four of those thefts resulted from deflections.

"I think San Bernardino was my best game," said Roth,

who hit 17 of 23 passes for 216 yards and two touchdowns in leading the Griffins to a 30-27 win.

"I was really smooth. I wasn't under-throwing like I have in other games."

Roth's 129 completions is a school record. And if he attempts nine more aeriels in Saturday's finale at Riverside City College, he could break Tom Madigan's record 237 attempted passes. Roth's yardage places him fourth among all-time Grossmont passers.

"Sure, I'm a little surprised to be having this kind of year," confessed Roth. "But I really don't keep track of records too much."

In his senior year at Granite Hills, Roth hit 78 of 143 passes for 994 yards and eight touchdowns. He had only six interceptions.

"The one difference I've found at the JC level is that it's good to be a tall quarterback. I never paid much attention to that kind of talk in high school.

"But at Granite Hills I could step back and look over the defensive line when I wanted to throw. Up here, it's harder to see. All I can see is the tops of heads. The defensive backs react a lot quicker.

"Junior college is definitely a high caliber of football."

Despite turning down the one four-year scholarship he got, Roth is pleased with his decision to come to Grossmont.

"My brother (Tom, who played at Washington State University and is now a coach; told me JC would be the best move. I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do and coming here gave me two extra years to decide.

"It also helped me get used to college-type scholastic work." In between studying game plans, films and going through football practices, Roth also finds time to take 17½ units.

"I hope to go into coaching or forestry some day," Roth said. "But I want to go on and play football at a four-year school after next season."

"After another year with us, Roth will be able to step in and start for almost any major college team in the country," Griffin coach Dave Jordan judged.