

1974 GROSSMONT COLLEGE GRIFFINS



Photo By Russ Gilbert

VS SAN BERNARDINO INDIANS

SATURDAY NOV. 2

AZTEC BOWL 7:30 P.M.

50¢

JOE ROTH OVERCOMES CANCER

By Bill Dickens

El Cajon Californian Sports writer

As Joe Roth put on the football pads for the first time in 1974, he didn't want to talk about how many touchdown passes he was going to throw or make any predictions for the Griffins this fall.

He wanted to thank humanity. Nobody is happier to be alive than the 6-foot-3, 180-pound Griffin sophomore.

Only last May Roth was stricken with cancer. Fortunately, surgery corrected the problem and Roth is back in school and on the football field.

"It was like a nightmare," recalls the Granite Hills High graduate. "The doctors couldn't say how bad the cancer was until after the surgery. And even then, I had to lay in bed for two days and nights waiting for the results from the laboratory.

"The only thing that made the waiting bearable was the interest people showed in me. I never knew how many really good friends I had until I went into the hospital. The phone was ringing constantly, and I received numerous cards and letters wishing me well. I heard from about 1,000 people I guess. It really made me feel great.

"There's no way I can thank each person individually, although I appreciate them more than I can express in words."

The cancer actually caught Roth by surprise. One day he went to the doctor to have a mole removed and less than one week later he was in the hospital.

"Things were passing by me so fast I didn't know what to make of it. I was in shock. One day I was throwing a football, and the next day I was in surgery."

With the nightmare now behind him, Roth says he's "reevaluated his life. I don't take anything for granted anymore. I'm really grateful to be able to play this game of football. I appreciate the game more than ever before.

"The doctors said one reason I came out of the operation so well was because I was in good physical condition.

"And I guess I owe that to football."