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Playing ball with a bare

Krause pitches for top players by taking slow road to success

Coaching baseball at Oregon is like fighting Sugar Ray Leonard with one hand tied behind your back — there's only so much you can do.

Such is the task for Oregon's coach, Mel Krause.

He faces not only a thin budget but a scholarship limit that makes competitive college baseball in Eugene difficult.

In 1974 Oregon won the baseball's Northern Division title. Krause had 19 full-ride scholarships to offer prospective players, six of them for out-of-state athletes. But most important was that Krause had the financial means to stave off Oregon State, Washington and Washington State.

In 1975 the University cut funds to the

tennis, golf, swimming and baseball programs. For Krause, that meant 10 partial scholarships and no out-of-state scholarships. The team's record dropped to 19-21 in 1975 and to a dismal 14-27 in 1976.

Krause could no longer scoop up all the high school talent he wanted. He had to take the fast route to success by dipping into the junior college ranks and hope some transfers could blend with high school recruits to form a respectable team.

It has been a struggle, Krause says. Only now, he feels, does Oregon have a team that can compete for talent in the Northern Division.

But that still means careful and strategic recruiting.

"Financially, I recruit the skill positions first," says Krause. "Pitchers are the most important product, and then I go after the guys in the middle of the field."

"If a person is an outstanding hitter in terms of power and RBI, then I go to him."

But a kid who had a good high school career and wants to be rewarded with a full scholarship is not likely to get one at Oregon.

"I just have to give them tuition and books. But if you can't buy books, you shouldn't be in college."

One thing Krause is reward the players.

Shortstop Rick Oregon as a walk-partial scholarship. and Jim Givens of scholarships — now books.

"I try to reward them," Krause says.

But money doesn't reward them.

Each year, Oregon road trip to prepare.

The trip costs \$6,000. \$1,500 of it from the

Revenue from two alumni reunions he

difference for this year were planned far in

the extra money for concern.

"We haven't had a baseball fund-raiser

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