

Cornelsen will Coach Tascosa

Gary Cornelsen's run in the Texas Panhandle isn't over yet. The former Liberal coach and athletic director will be assistant head football coach and head track coach at Amarillo Tascosa this coming school year. Cornelsen said this spring he would retire and join son Ryan Cornelsen in Hays to help the Indians. Cornelsen says now isn't the time to make that move. "I'm getting better at retiring I guess," Cornelsen said. "I retired here in Texas in May and at that time I was going to go help Ryan coach this next football season. In May, the guy I was working for at Randall (Ken Plunk) took the Tascosa job and to retire and rehire, the Tascosa job pays pretty well. So I was able to get my retirement and get paid for just coaching. All I'm going to do now is just coach and Tascosa's pretty close to where I live. We play in a district with nine teams." The district includes the likes of Odessa High, Odessa Permian, Midland High, and Midland Lee. "It should be a great experience," Cornelsen said. "Maybe I can learn some more football at a later age."

Cornelsen attended the Shrine Bowl Saturday night in Wichita. He was impressed by Liberal's Nate Davis. "I thought the Liberal kid played real well tonight," Cornelsen said. "He did a great job for West. It seems like these games get to be defensive battles for some reason so it was pretty typical." Cornelsen coached two years in the Shrine Bowl game, one as a head coach and one as an assistant coach in 1993 and 1994. "It's a great game for a lot of great causes," Cornelsen said. "The trip you take to St. Louis to see the kids who really had a lot of pain brought their way and then all the comraderie with the kids who you coach and the comraderie with the other coaches. It was an exciting time for me as a coach." Cornelsen coached Liberal to a 118-17 record in 12 seasons. He led the Skins to four state titles and three runner-up finishes. He also coached the LHS boys track team to 14 straight state championships and 10 girls state titles. Cornelsen passes through Liberal often traveling from Amarillo to Hays. He says he's impressed with the progress at Redskin Field.