Ronny Gage was one of the original coaches of ‘Angry Red,’ and was an assistant on the 1972 state runner-up team.

“When Liberal decided to become a football power in the late 60’s and early 70’s, he was a good example of the type of coach that Noel Thomason brought to Liberal,” Al Shank, a former player under Gage, said.

“Some of our coaches had great pedigrees,” Shank said. “Ron and his Permian background, Troy Anderson who played at West Texas State with Mercury Morris, John Kendall who later would lead Liberal to a state championship as a head coach in his own right. Those were some of the assistants. The head coach was Noel Thomason from Pryor, Okla., who was nicknamed ‘Gray Fox of the Osage.’”

“That was a pretty impressive group of men who were the heart and soul of the early ‘Angry Red,’” Shank said. “A group I was honored to be a part of.”

RONNY W. GAGE

Coach Ronny W. Gage, former Nimitz High School Football coach and teacher, working for over 30 years, passed away Saturday, August 17, 2013. He was a hunter and fisherman extraordinaire, and an antique dealer, and a member of the 1963 Odessa Permian Football Team. Coach was a loving son, husband, father, and grandfather. He was born to Murrell Dwight and Juanetha F. (Hiller) Gage on March 18, 1945 in San Diego, California. He was preceded in death by his father, Murrell Dwight Gage and sister, Cindy Traylor. Coach is survived by his wife, Sue Gage of Irving; son, Clint Gage and wife Teri of Seattle, Washington; daughter, Amy Slagle and husband Dan of Trenton, Texas; mother, Juanetha Yeakel and husband Howard of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Tyler Gage, Collin Gage, Connor Alton, Ashley Slagle, Kymber Slagle; and mother-in-law, Naomi Maxwell of Irving. Burial took place at Pecan

Wells Cemetery in Pecan Wells, Texas. Memorials may be made to The American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave Dallas, Texas 75231, giving online atwww.heart.org.