

# GLADIATORS

During the boring years of the Roman Empire, those bloodthirsty citizens needed something to do. So after viewing a burial ritual, they thought of the Gladiator events. Two people fighting during a funeral performed the ritual. People found it very amusing. Gladiators are people who fight for glory or their lives. Gladiator duels are the most lethal sports in the Roman world.

To get gladiators, owners of camps or training facilities had to recruit slaves to train and have fight for them during the events. Sometimes free men would sign away their freedom to become a gladiator. They did this for fame and fortune.

Each gladiator was on a special diet, barley and beans. They ate this to get them fat and bulky, so if they were cut, it would not bleed out as bad or hurt so bad.

The training camps were rough and they trained many different types of gladiators: the Myrmillo, who had a dagger, wide leather belt, and leg bands, a Thracian who had a small shield, carved dagger, and grieves on both legs, a Andabatus who had a helmet with no eye holes, and rode horse back at the enemy. There was also an Essedarius who drove a horse drawn chariot, a Retarius who had a trident, left arm and shoulder protection, and a net tangle up the enemy, a Samnite who had a visor helmet with a crest, a sword and large shield. They also included the Dimachaerius who had two sword and little or no armor, the Laquerius who had a trident, left arm and shoulder protection, and a lasso, a Secutor who had light armor and chased his enemy, and last there was a Velitus who only had a spear.

Before every duel, there would be a practice fight with wooden sword. After that people would place their bets to make some money. Then when every one is ready the real fight begins. If a gladiator gets downed, the emperor gets the final say. If thumbs up, the downed gladiator is spared, if thumbs down he is killed. The winner of the duel does well; he gets a leaf headband, if he does great, he gets a wooden sword to show his greatness and freedom. If it were a tie, they would both be winners. Later a guy dressed in a Charon costume would drag the dying gladiators off the field. Charon is a mythical creature.

Gladiators also could have wives and families. The wives could come to the feast before every fight. There would be wine for them to drink.

If a gladiator died, their fellow gladiators from school might want to give them a proper burial, and they could do that. They would be buried in the Gladiator Burial Grounds. They had tombstones to mark their graves.

If I were a gladiator, I would like to be the Dimachaerius, because I would do very well with two swords. I wouldn't need much armor, because my sword skills would be very great. The other gladiator I would like to be is the Myrmillo. I would also do well with dagger and shield.

## Work Cited

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