

ROMAN GLADIATORS

By Devin

Most Roman gladiators began as slaves but some gave up their freedom to be a gladiator. There were very many different kinds of gladiators in Rome. Most of their battle techniques came from conquered lands. Sometimes these gladiators would be killed in the battle because this is what the Roman people liked to see. They were blood thirsty people. Roman gladiators had to train a lot before being able to fight in the Colosseum.

Gladiators were one of the biggest entertainment in Rome. If these gladiators won and were given a palm branch and a wooden sword, they were free. If you weren't a very common gladiator, the crowd would give a thumbs down which means you would be stabbed. If you were a popular gladiator, your life would be spared if you were defeated. Some people would pay off a debt by being a gladiator. Sometimes criminals would be gladiators to get out.

The gladiators were expected to bathe themselves every night (wow, that is hard). During the day, they had to train with wooden swords until the day came where they would battle against each other in the Colosseum. Sometimes gladiators would even fight against beast, like lions or tigers. These gladiators were paid so much every time they fought. By the end of the Roman Empire, about half of gladiators were volunteers.

Roman gladiators that gave their freedom and were not a slave or criminal were taught how to fight in a private school. A gladiator's owner was called a lanista. They

learned combat, discipline, courage, and loyalty from their owner. Some people tryout to be a gladiator but fail at their real combat test. Being a gladiator was like being a slave. One reason why was that they were owned by their teacher.

If the gladiators won their battle, they would celebrate by a night in the bathhouse. The gladiators were ordered by their leader to use the bathhouse (wow, that is quite an order). You may think it would be crazy to be a gladiator. To them it was a way to either die well fighting to be free or becoming free, not working your life away in the quarry as a slave. After these gladiators were free, they were allowed to wander the street of any Roman city.

The gladiators were well respected by the Roman citizens. They were treated well by the people of Rome, but the barbarians thought it was a crazy idea. They figured that they wouldn't kill them for their punishment but sent them to the army. There were many different kinds of gladiators. The most common was the Samnite. This gladiator wore a visored helmet with a crest, and he carries a long sword and a large shield. The other kinds are the Myrmillo, Thracian, Andabatus, Essedarius, Retarius, Dimachaerius, Laqueris, Secuter, Velitus, and the woman.

Work Cited

The Gladiator. 2005 Able Media. 2 Apr. 2006
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