**ACHILLES**

Achilles was a Greek hero of the Trojan War and the central character and greatest warrior of Homer's Iliad. Achilles' Heel. Like many mythological heroes, Achilles was part human and part supernatural being. His parents were Peleus, a king of Thessaly in northern Greece, and a sea nymph named Thetis. According to Homer, Thetis raised both Achilles and his closest friend and companion, Patroclus.

In Greek mythology, when Achilles was a baby it was predicted that he would die at a young age. To prevent his early demise, and in an effort to make her son immortal, Achilles' mother, Thetis, took her son to the River Styx, which was rumored to hold powers of invulnerability. Thetis held her son by the ankle and dipped him into the River Styx. This made Achilles invulnerable everywhere, except for the one area directly where his mother’s fingers had gripped him while dipping him into the river.

Achilles was part of the Achaean (Greek) forces in the Trojan War. The Trojan War occurred over Helen of Troy, who had been kidnapped by Paris, the Prince of Troy. Agamemnon led the Achaeans to Troy to win back Helen for his brother Menelaus. Proud and autocratic, Agamemnon antagonized Achilles, which initially caused Achilles to not participate in the battle. However, he is eventually motivated by revenge to join in on the battle after his friend Patroclus is killed by Hector, who was considered to be the greatest of the Trojans.
An enraged Achilles killed Hector directly outside of the gates of Troy and then dishonored the body of Hector by dragging it around tied to the back of a chariot for nine consecutive days. It is said that the gods keep Hector’s corpse miraculously sound during this nine day period. Eventually Hector’s father, King Priam of Troy, appealed to the better nature of Achilles and persuaded him to return Hector's corpse to his family in Troy for proper funeral rites.

The death of Achilles was inflicted by an arrow that was shot directly into his vulnerable heel.

