ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 20, MORE THAN 100 U.S. DRUG Enforcement Administration agents began to fan out across 27 states, knocking down doors in suburban cul-de-sacs and pushing their way into basements and kitchens. Their targets: dozens of homemade-drug labs that had taken root in the shadows of schools and supermarkets and now produced and sold steroids, human growth hormone, even Viagra. The owners weren’t exactly secretive. One Long Island man had 800,000 doses of raw steroid powder stacked in plain view in his garage, right next to his shiny new Corvette; nearby, a locker housed empty vials and printed address labels for thousands of clients throughout the country. An electrician who was running another lab, in New Jersey, had stashed 40,000 doses in his basement, along with the tub and centrifuge he used to turn the powder into street-ready drugs. In a third raid, on a Midwestern home, the living room floor was so thick with steroid powder that agents left footprints behind.

BY SHAUN ASSAEL
COMING CLEAN

CHINA'S DOPING CONTROL CENTER RACES TO GET READY FOR THE GAMES

We Mustad, head of China's Doping Control Center, is already living sleep over next summer's Olympics, not to mention his government's vow to host the cleanest Games ever. "I never had experience organizing such a big event," he says, "but we have help. Last year, we had 2,000 agents from around the world who will fly in to inspect the estimated 4,500 tests we expect to conduct in 10,000 square-meter facility, which is under construction and will have 150 drug testers and the largest collection of detection machinery ever assembled for a sporting event," he says. "We will be operating—how can I say it in English?—24/7," says Wu.

Olympic organizers are planning on it to banned China's imaging. Doping control has been a national team for years. In 1999, the country's provi

ForWei, to cut steroids and could test for them in national team for years. In 1999, the country's provi

Moreover, in August 2000, officials raid a sports camp in the northwestern city of Liangshan, where they found trainers' apology sending young student. The refrigerator in the headquarter's office held 100 doses of EPIS and 141 bottles of steroids. Zhou Jun, head of the Anti-Doping Commission of the Chinese Olympic Committee, says the bust proves China's sensibilities. "If we were using drugs, we would," Wu says.

We should benefit from a more sensitive blood test to detect growth hormone, which the World Anti-Doping Agency hopes to debut before Beijing, the test used in Athens in 2004 didn't catch a single user. "Each Olympic has problems," Wu says, "but we don't want to. You can't change everything in two years. But we will have a lot help." -S.A.

THE FARTHER ONE VENTURES INTO THE EXPO HALL, THE MORE IT SEEMS THE EXHIBITORS ARE WILLING TO OVERLOOK THE RULES

THE HGH CONNECTION

4. The vials are in the middle of a catalog regulation, which means the liquid is essentially powder.

5. The vials are sold in kits (cost: from $300 to several thousand dollars) and include a sterile saline solution. End users mix the solution with powder to create illegal doses of HGH.

and a shopping list that could keep an underground lab busying for months. The lot includes kidnapped quantitations of three popular testosterone and nandrolone derivatives that can be transformed into deca-durabolin, a bodybuilding favorite. The expedition starts slowly. At a booth for a Shanghai-based subsidiary of a U.K. company, Chinese hintered the take the lead and boldly tries to match it against her own. But her British source agrees. Glancing at the wrinkled paper, she shoves away the prospectives leaves and her translator. "We may not be the best place for you," he says, "we are not."

Steroids are a controlled substance in the States, so before a drug company may sell any drug company may have to register with the Food and Drug Administration. Buyers must be licensed by the DEA. Anyone with a legitimate need—doctors, dentists, pharmacists—may get a license. A sports-related website may try. If a manufacturer sells to an American who doesn't have a proper license, "a citizen has been convicted as soon as those drugs hit the U.S.,” says DEA spokesman Steve Robertson.

Still, in a economy that average laborer makes $52 a month, a couple of thousand dollars is a long way. The further one ventures into the Expo hall, the more it seems the exhibitors are willing to overlook the rules. Wedged into a long array of displays, a young woman from a steroids company has a table covered with bags. "We have all of them," she says. Asked if we had to shipping to the U.S., it is a problem, she replies, "Is Federal Express okay? We do it for our American clients." She opens up to no answer. At the booth of a small company from China's southern Jiangsu province, a young woman offers the的选择 price of the product is $15,000, once it hits the street. "Selling these supplement is.

Another exporter agrees to sell us stanozolol, the drug that got Ben Johnson stripped of his 1988 gold in Seoul and Oriole Rafael Palmeiro testing positive for it. The exporter suggests we use another chemist's name on the shipping label to avoid detection. "They can call it a million things," says a veteran U.S. drug agent. "The bottom line is, we don't have enough agents to man our import facilities. That's why stuff is getting in literally by the bushel."

American efforts to stamp out the flow have been mixed. At the end of 2000, the DEA scored a major coup with Operation Sport Gator, which shut down eight Mexican pharmaceutical companies that were smuggling the U.S. with high-dose steroids. More people were arrested and several websites shut down. The shelves of border pharmacies in places like Tucson were suddenly noticeably devoid of tools.

But that victory was short-lived. Three months later, the Mexican labs got most of their raw materials from Chinese suppliers. When the mailmen were closed down, the supply chain began to sell down. "It created a void," says an agent who worked on the Mexican case. "And that was an opportunity for

By the time “Operation Raw Deal” ran its course four days later, 126 people had been arrested and 56 labs shut down. Hundreds of thousands of intercepted e-mails went into a database of names that the agents promised would lead to more arrests down the line.

What looks like a5 is the intended destruction of the drugs—phone calls, gym, even, an old school kids—solicits their trust. China. Raw Deal represents more than a year of tracing that Manhant-to-Manhattan pipeline. In addition to the arrests and seizures made on these shores, DEA agents also identified 37 Chinese factories they figure was forging most of the underground trade. This is what the latest in Beijing’s government is going to renege to be a whole lot of China’s Olympic Games, in Beijing. An official web page那儿 says World Anti-Doping Agency has spent millions on this program. Over the past seven years, the size of China’s drug industry has ballooned from $22 billion to an estimated $67 billion. Steroid powders and herbal teas and antiviral drugs. Friendly faces and millions of dollars have already changed hands. The average laborer makes $232 a month, a couple of thousand dollars goes a long way. "Selling these supplements is.

Samostauski is shipped in overnight reads to the U.S. (In order to advertise and thus undermine a single green raw powder (cost: $3,000) will yield $40,000 retail.

3. It is the lab, the powder is diluted by combining it with a mixer such as baking soda and dissolving it in water. The resulting solution is sold out into 10 ml vials.

2. Sonstauski is shipped in overnight reads to the U.S. (In order to advertise and thus undermine a single green raw powder (cost: $3,000) will yield $40,000 retail.

1. The segment of DNA responsible for growth hormone production is placed into bacterial culture to be replicated. The growth hormone is then isolated and purified for the product license fee

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