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eeeping Sport Clean: Towards a Drug- Free Olympics



run at sea level. Later in the year, his performance in the 100-m, 4×100-m relay, and 200-m events earned Canada two gold medals and one bronze at the Commonwealth Games.

In early January 1986, at the same meet in Japan where he set the world best for the 60-m, Johnson broke his own mark with a time of 6.44 seconds. Later that month in Ottawa, he broke

Even training is enjoyable when you're on top.

the world record for 50-m indoors with a time of 5.55 seconds.

Gold is definitely Ben Johnson's colour. To date, his athletic career has been crowned with success and there is every reason to believe that the track star with the flying feet has much more to offer the world of sports.

While athletes the world over continue to push the limits of speed and endurance in the final warm-up for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games, toxicologists at Foothills Hospital in Calgary, Alberta, are joyfully playing with state-of-the-art technology in their new, \$2-million drug-testing facility.

Funded by the Olympic Organizing Committee, (OCO), the labs will be the testing site for all medalists and for random spot checks of the Games' competitors.

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Currently awaiting accreditation as the second sports drug-testing laboratory in Canada (the other is in Montreal), the facility will be used after the Games for clinical research, pharmacokinetics (the study of the bodily absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of drugs), services and sports medicine.

Drug testing was first ordered in 1967 by the International Olympic Medical Commission (IOMC), after some athletes died from drug overdoses. Today, testing checks for drugs that give unfair advantage or that

threaten the overall health of the athlete.

Five broad groups of drugs are banned: stimulants, narcotics, beta blockers, diuretics and steroids, as well as "related compounds," a category that covers anything similar that has not yet turned up in testing.

Siu C. Chan, PhD, is the clinical toxicologist in charge of the drug-testing facility at Foothills Hospital. Having set up the lab from scratch, Dr. Chan was thrilled with the opportunity to build a world-class facility. "The profile of drug-testing labs is very high right now," he says. "What we do is being scrutinized internationally, which makes it very challenging." Dr. Chan explains that a network for international co-operation is being established and that Canada is one of the lead actors. "Someone from Auckland, New Zealand, is coming to work with us for a month because they will be hosting the 1990 Commonwealth Games and they want to see how it's done."

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