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Sokors who ate dogmeat cleared for Barcelona

SEOUL -- South Korean athletic stars who failed dope tests were probably the unwitting recipients of drug-spiced dogmeat but are now clear to take part in the Barcelona Olympics, sports officials said on Tuesday.

An official of the Korea Olympic Committee (KOC) told Reuter further tests had shown the drug count in the affected athletes had fallen to acceptable levels.

"The athletes have passed the test and they will be going to the Olympics. They did have some steroids in their bodies but they did not exceed the level allowed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)," the official said.

"And by the time of the Olympics (later this month) the level will have dropped further."

The KOC met on Monday night to discuss the results of the dope tests after it was found some athletes tested positive last week for banned drugs in an initial urine analysis.

The six athletes involved were not named, but included two track and field stars, and one each from the South Korean handball, gymnastics, weightlifting and boxing teams.

The official said it was likely the



six had inadvertently taken muscle-building steroids which had been mixed into "kae-soju," a local health-drink in which dogmeat is a principal ingredient.

"It is quite possible the kae-soju could have caused all this trouble. Like most Koreans, it is something mothers and family members would get for their sons and daughters to build up their strength and stamina."

Kae-soju is made by boiling a whole dog with herbs and spices.

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