

69% of Sports Fans Think There Should Be a College Football Tournament to Determine NCAA Champ

Seton Hall Sports Poll Was Conducted Last Week

S. Orange, NJ, December 7, 2006 – A Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted last week, dealing with BCS rankings and determination of a college football champion, has found that 69% of sports fans want a tournament for college football teams along the lines of the basketball tournament in played in March.

The number wanting a tournament increased to 78% when limited to just the 37% of sports fans that are a “very or somewhat familiar with the BCS formula.”

“The fact that sports fans across the country are still largely unfamiliar with the components of the BCS formula indicates a weakness in the BCS’s ability to market itself,” noted Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute. “Only a third are familiar with the method, and even those want to see something else.”

The poll was conducted between November 27-30, prior to Florida being designated to play Ohio State for the national championship. A total of 521 people who described themselves as sports fans responded to the random calling across the nation.

“The controversy over who should play Ohio State in this year’s championship game only adds fuel to the ever-growing fire,” said Gentile.

Only 37% of sports fans said they are very, or somewhat familiar with the components that make up the BCS formula.

On the question of whether college football does a good job, a fair job or a poor job of selecting the national champion, 70% of all sports fans polled said it does a good or fair job, 27% said it does a poor job. among those who considered themselves very or somewhat familiar with the bcs formula, 64% said college football does a good or fair job and 36% said the current system does a poor job.

76% of all respondents think the BCS formula should be altered to give all Division 1A teams a fairer opportunity to compete for the championship. The same 76% of people very or somewhat familiar with the BCS formula think the same.

From those who felt a playoff system should be instituted, 36% think the tournament should have eight teams, and 31% said 16 teams.

Summary of results:

1. To what extent do you follow college football?

Very closely 23%

Somewhat closely 48%

Not very closely 22%

2. Do you think college football does a good job, a fair job, or a poor job of selecting the national champion each year?

Good job 36%
Fair job 35%
Poor job 18%

3. Do you think college basketball does a good job, a fair job or a poor job or selecting the national champion each year?

Good job 61%
Fair job 16%
Poor job 1%

4. Do you think there should be a tournament for college football teams along the lines of the basketball tournament in March?

Yes 69%
No 20%

Among those very/somewhat familiar with the BCS formula

Yes 78%
No 17%

5. If yes to question 4, how many teams do you think should be included in the championship tournament, 4, 8, 16, 32 or some other amount of teams?

Four 10%
Eight 36%
Sixteen 31%
Thirty-two 10%

6. The following are some of the reasons that are given for not having a football championship tournament along the lines of the basketball tournament. Which ones do you think are good reasons?

a. It would keep athletes out of class too long?

Yes 41%
No 54%

b. It would lessen the significance of bowl games?

Yes 39%
No 56%

c. It would take too long to do properly?

Yes 36%
No 56%

7. College football uses a complex ranking system called the BCS poll. How familiar are you with the various components that make up the BCS formula?

Very familiar 8%
Somewhat familiar 29%
Not very familiar 25%
Not at all familiar 38%

8. What do you believe would be the best system for ranking the college football teams:

Winning percentage 48%
Coaches poll 20%
Media poll 4%
BCS computer 16%
Other 4%

9. If there are two or more undefeated teams that qualify for the BCS, should a team with one or more losses be allowed to participate in the championship game?

Yes 68%
No 25%

10. On November 18, number one ranked Ohio State beat number 2 ranked Michigan 42-39 at Ohio State. Would you like to see a repeat match for the national championship?

Yes 59%
No 37%

Should the BCS formula be altered to allow all Division 1A football teams a fairer opportunity to play for the National Championship?

Yes 76%
No 14%

About Seton Hall University

For 150 years, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for leadership, developing the whole student, mind, heart and spirit. Seton Hall combines the resources of a large university with the personal attention of a small liberal arts college. Its attractive suburban campus is only 14 miles from New York City, with the wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities the city offers. Seton Hall is a Catholic university that embraces students of all races and religions, challenging each to better the world through integrity, compassion and a commitment to serving others. For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

* The poll was conducted by telephone among a random digit dial sample of 521 adults ages 18 and older living in the continental United States. The poll was sponsored by Seton Hall University. The poll was weighted for differences in household size, age, race and gender. The margin of error due to sampling is +/- 4.3 percentage points for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error.

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