

83% LOOK TO NBA TO PENALIZE ISIAH THOMAS IN NEW SETON HALL SPORTS POLL

Figure Drops to 40% To Penalize Team Management

81% Agree With Stripping Marion Jones of Medals, But Only 22% Say Her Relay Teammates Should Surrender Theirs

S. Orange, NJ, November 14, 2007 – 83% of respondents to a new Seton Hall Sports Poll have said that Commissioner David Stern should penalize New York Knicks coach Isiah Thomas for his actions towards former Knicks Vice President Anucha Browne-Sanders, but the number drops to just 40% when asked if team management should be penalized.

The poll was held November 5-7 by the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute. 626 people, with 392 identifying themselves as sports fans, responded to the random calling across the nation. Seton Hall conducts the only academically based sports poll in the US.

The response, broken down among all respondents, showed 87% of women vs. 79% of men felt Thomas should be penalized by the NBA. It was closer in terms of team management, with 41% of men and 38% of women saying Madison Square Garden management should be penalized.

Meanwhile, 81% of all respondents felt that track star Marion Jones should indeed have been stripped of her medals in view of her use of steroids, but only 22% felt her three relay teammates should surrender theirs.

“The public spoke to the innocence of her teammates and spoke from the heart on this one,” said Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll. “It would be a shame for them to lose their medals, but the victory is obviously tarnished with the star of their team running ‘dirty.’ This was the heart speaking louder than the moral question of ‘did they really earn them?’”

Ninety-two percent of respondents said they felt that opportunities for women in the business of sports has increased over the last 20 years, but only 39% felt women had as much chance as men to advance in sports business (divided 44% men saying yes and 35% women).

Asked if they followed women’s team sports like the WNBA, 29% said yes (27% of men, 30% of women), but the number jumped to 54% when asked if they followed women’s individual sports, such as figure skating (49% men, 61% women).

“This would seem to indicate that the WNBA and other team sports need to develop more individual stars to help grow their fans bases”, noted Gentile.

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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 626 adults ages 18 and older living in the continental United States. The poll was sponsored by Seton Hall University. The poll was weighted to it reflect the national distribution age, race and gender. The margin of error due to sampling is +/- 4.0 percentage points for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error.

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