



STILLMAN SCHOOL  
OF BUSINESS  
*The Sharkey Institute*

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

*Seton Hall Sports Poll*

**MANNING'S PUBLIC APPROVAL UNSCATHED BY RECENT ACCUSATIONS**  
**Curry Still Well Behind LeBron, Kobe, in Approval Poll**

**Pizzi's 7 Marathons-7 Continents-7 Days Draws Near-Super Bowl Attention**

South Orange, NJ, February 25, 2016 -- Despite recent accusations hurled at Peyton Manning over PED use (by Al Jazeera) and his behavior in college, his approval ratings remain high among the American public and seemingly not influenced by the negative publicity at all.

The Seton Hall Sports Poll asked 762 adults across the country (using landlines and cellphones), for approval or disapproval on a number of star athletes this week. Manning had a 68% approval rating, with only 3% disapproving of him. This is consistent with previous Seton Hall Sports Polls - in fact, his highest approval rating yet. (The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.6%).

	Feb 2016	Oct 2013	Sept 2012	Nov 2011
Approve	68	64	62	65
Disapprove	3	4	3	4

And while basketball fans have become enamored with Steph Curry, his approval rating still trails established veterans LeBron James and the retiring Kobe Bryant. Curry had a 40% approval rating (with a remarkable 1% disapproval), while James had a 53% (9% disapprove) and Bryant a 51% approval (with 11% disapproving).

After James left Cleveland for Miami with a press announcement that was not well received, his approval was 40%, his disapproval 16%. (Seton Hall Sports Poll, November, 2010).

"It seems right to say that he has recovered from that PR blip of six years ago," noted Rick Gentile, director of the Poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute.

Other athletes in the poll included boxer Manny Pacquiao (28% to 15%), Cam Newton (37% vs. 11%), and Patrick Kane (16% vs. 3%).

Summary of all:

	Approve	Disapprove	No Opinion
Manning	68	3	29
Newton	37	11	52
Bryant	51	11	38
Curry	40	1	59
Pacquiao	28	15	57
James	53	9	39
Kane	16	3	81

### **Most Admired Sports Accomplishment**

Manning's Super Bowl victory also led the results in a question of which recent accomplishment was most admired, but his 37% was not that far ahead of a strong 31% for runner Becca Pizzi, who completed seven marathons on seven continents in seven days. Bryant's All-Star farewell had 14% and Denny Hamlin's narrow Daytona 500 victory had 7%. (Among women, Pizzi's accomplishment was a virtual dead heat with Manning's Super Bowl win, with 34% to Manning's 33%).

### **PED Use Ban**

New York Mets relief pitcher Jenrry Mejia recently became the first Major Leaguer banned for life after testing positive for a banned substance for the third time. 47% felt the punishment was right, and only 7% considered it too harsh. 32% thought it should have been banishment after one or two failed tests.

### **Ticket Purchasing**

Respondents were also asked about their ticket buying habits for sports events. 43% said they bought sports tickets online, with only 18% saying "the box office." 19% said they got them from friends. Ticketmaster outpolled StubHub 55% to 26% as the go-to choice, while Ticket Exchange polled at less than 2%. But when asked if they would likely go to a site with a relationship to the team, 56% said yes.

### **Looking Forward to...**

Asked what event they are most looking forward to, respondents gave a slight nod to the NCAA basketball tournament with 30% to the start of baseball season at 28%. The NBA playoffs drew 17%. Among African-Americans, the result was heavily in favor of the NBA (48%), with the NCAA at 27% and MLB at 13%).

Rick Gentile will be interviewed later today by Seth Everett for a podcast on the poll's findings, and the link will be provided later.

### ***ABOUT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY***

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for leadership — developing students in mind, heart and spirit — since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 academic programs, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles by train, bus or car from New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The university's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark.

For more information, visit [www.shu.edu](http://www.shu.edu).

### ***About the poll:***

This poll was conducted by telephone February 22-24 among 762 adults in the United States. The Seton Hall Sports Poll is conducted by the Sharkey Institute.

Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard landline and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. The error for subgroups may be higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

The Seton Hall Sports Poll has been conducted regularly since 2006.

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### **The results**

1. Which athlete's recent accomplishment do you most admire: Peyton Manning's second Super Bowl win; Denny Hamlin's victory driving in the Daytona 500; Kobe Bryant appearing in his 18th and last NBA All-Star game or Becca Pizzi completing 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days?

1. Manning	37%
2. Hamlin	7
3. Bryant	14
4. Pizzi	31
5. Other	12

2. Which event are you most looking forward to, the major league baseball season, the NBA playoffs or the NCAA Basketball Tournament?

1. Baseball	28
2. NBA	17
3. NCAA	30
4. Don't know	25

3. Recently Jenrry Mejia, a relief pitcher for the New York Mets, was suspended for life by Major League Baseball for testing positive for a banned substance for the third time. Do you think banishment after testing positive three times is too harsh, just right, should be after 2 times, or should a player be banished after the first positive test?

1. Too harsh	7
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- |                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 2. Just right                 | 47 |
| 3. Should be after 2 times    | 16 |
| 4. Should be after first time | 16 |
| 5. Don't know                 | 14 |

4. How many sports events would you say you've attended in the past year?

- |                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. None             | 32 |
| 2. Fewer than 5     | 34 |
| 3. Between 5 and 10 | 17 |
| 4. More than 10     | 17 |

**(IF NONE SKIP NEXT 3 QUESTIONS)**

5. When you are looking for tickets, where do you get them: box office, friends, on line, or another way?

- |               |    |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Box office | 18 |
| 2. Friends    | 19 |
| 3. On line    | 43 |
| 4. Other      | 12 |
| 5. Don't know | 9  |

**(IF OTHER THAN "ON LINE" SKIP NEXT 2 QUESTIONS)**

6. Which on line service do you use to acquire tickets, Ticketmaster, StubHub, Vivid Seats Ticket City, Ticket Exchange or some other?

- |                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Ticketmaster    | 55 |
| 2. StubHub         | 26 |
| 3. Vivid Seats     | 2  |
| 4. Ticket City     | 2  |
| 5. Ticket Exchange | 2  |
| 6. Other           | 14 |

7. If your favorite team had a relationship with one of the online ticket retailers, would you be more likely to go to them first?

- |               |    |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes        | 56 |
| 2. No         | 27 |
| 3. Don't know | 17 |

Now I'm going to ask you your opinion of several prominent sports figures. Please tell me whether you approve, disapprove or have no opinion of the following people:

8. Peyton Manning

- |               |    |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Approve    | 68 |
| 2. Disapprove | 3  |
| 3. No opinion | 29 |

9. Cam Newton

- |               |    |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Approve    | 37 |
| 2. Disapprove | 11 |
| 3. No opinion | 52 |

10. Kobe Bryant

- |            |    |
|------------|----|
| 1. Approve | 51 |
|------------|----|

2. Disapprove	11
3. Don't know	38
11. Steph Curry	
1. Approve	40
2. Disapprove	1
3. Don't know	59
12. Manny Pacquaio	
1. Approve	28
2. Disapprove	15
3. Don't know	57
13. LeBron James	
1. Approve	53
2. Disapprove	9
3. Don't know	39
14. Patrick Kane	
1. Approve	16
2. Disapprove	3
3. Don't know	81
15. How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?	
1. Very closely	18
2. Closely	38
3. Not closely	30
4. Not at all	14