



BY OVER 2 TO 1, USA BELIEVES NFL HAS NOT BEEN HONEST IN RECENT YEARS ON THE SUBJECT OF HEAD INJURIES

29% VIEW LEAGUE LESS FAVORABLY

***Both men and women agree -
Women's soccer team pay should equal men's***

South Orange, NJ, April 15, 2016 -- By more than a 2 to 1 margin, the nation believes the National Football League has not been honest in recent years on the subject of head injuries, according to a Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week. While 26% believe the league has been honest, 58% feels it has not been. 16% said they did not know.

The poll was conducted among 730 adults on both landlines and cellphones across the nation. (There is a margin of error of +/- 3.7%).

29% - nearly a third - now view the NFL less favorably, with 56% saying the matter has had no effect on their feelings about the league. (7% see it more favorably).

"Even though an overwhelming margin feels the league has been less than honest on this issue, the NFL continues to enjoy great popularity, with a majority of the respondents still saying it has no effect on how they view the league," said Rick Gentile, director of the Poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute. "But the 29% who view the league less favorably is a substantial number."

51% feel the NFL is not doing enough to protect its players from concussions and head injuries (vs. 35% who feel they do), and 54% feel they do not do enough for retired players who suffer from brain injuries (vs. 22% who feel they do). These "not doing enough" numbers are up 10% for both active and retired players since the question was last asked, in October 2014, by the Poll.

49% feel the sudden retirement of the New York Jets lineman D'Brickashaw Ferguson will raise awareness of the subject of head injuries. And a whopping 80% feel that

greater precautions should be taken by high school and college programs to limit concussions.

When asked “If your son wanted to play football....” only 21% said they would enthusiastically encourage it, 56% said they would cautiously allow it, and 18% said they would absolutely forbid it. Among men, it was 30% (encourage), 49% (allow), 18% (forbid), while among women, it was 13% (encourage), 62% (allow), and 19% (forbid).

MEN SUPPORT EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN’S SOCCER PLAYERS ALMOST AS MUCH AS WOMEN DO, AND BOTH OVERWHELMINGLY SO

While a national dialogue on the matter of equal pay for women plays out on the Presidential campaign trail, on the matter of members of the US Women’s Soccer team (World Cup champions), receiving comparable pay to members of the Men’s team, 73% indicated they should receive the same pay, with an additional 11% saying they should receive more. Only 8% said they should receive less, as they currently do. Men strongly support equal pay, with 69% of them approving, while 76% of women concur.

NBA WANTS TO RAISE MINIMUM AGE FROM 19 TO 20 - MAJORITY AGREES

With the NBA Commissioner saying he would like to raise the minimum age to draft players from 19 to 20, this effectively meant college players would have to complete two years, not one. 55% of respondents agreed with the two years of college plan, with only 13% supporting one year. The Poll asked this question in March, 2014, at which time 54% supported two years, and 19% supported one and done.

SALARIES FOR COLLEGE ATHLETES? 24% SAY THEY WOULD LOSE INTEREST

The Poll asked if interest would change if college athletes were compensated, and 64% said their interest would remain the same, with 24% saying it would decrease and only 11% saying it would increase.

COLLEGE HOCKEY GROWTH? 44% EXPRESS INTEREST

Asked if they would be interested in seeing a further growth of hockey on the college level, 44% indicated they would be either somewhat interested (28%) or very interested (16%), with 51% saying they were not interested in that.

ENDORSEMENTS BY PGA GOLFERS AN INFLUENCE?

Asked how likely they would be to buy a product endorsed by some leading PGA professionals, Phil Mickelson’s 24% “likely” rated highest among the five players listed, with Tiger Woods receiving 21%, Rory McIlroy 19%, Jordan Spieth 17% and Master’s winner Danny Willett 9%. The “not likely” tally came in at 62% for Woods, 61% for

Willett, 56% for Spieth, 55% for Mickelson and 54% for McIlroy. Mickelson also scored highest among those identifying themselves as fans or players of golf.

Buying Products Endorsed by Golf Stars				
	Likely	Unlikely	Golf Fans Likely	Golf Fans Unlikely
Mickelson	24%	55	46	40
Woods	21	62	35	52
McIlroy	19	54	38	44
Spieth	17	55	35	47
Willett	9	61	17	58

Rick Gentile will be interviewed by Seth Everett for a podcast on the poll's findings.

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.

About the poll:

This poll was conducted by telephone April 11-13 among 730 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 3.7 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.

Media: Media: Marty Appel Public Relations (212) 245-1772, AppelPR@gmail.com; Rick Gentile (917) 881-9489.

The results

1. An NFL Executive Vice President has suggested that there is a link between football and severe brain injury. Do you think the league has been honest about this link in dealing with the subject of head injuries for the past few years?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 26 |
| 2. No | 58 |
| 3. Don't know | 16 |

2. Has the league's handling of the controversy concerning brain injuries made you feel more favorable to the NFL, less favorable to the NFL or has it not affected your view of the league?

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. More favorable | 7 |
| 2. Less favorable | 29 |
| 3. No effect | 56 |
| 4. Don't know | 8 |

3. Do you think the NFL is doing enough to protect its players from concussions and head injuries?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 35 |
| 2. No | 51 |
| 3. Don't know | 15 |

4. Do you think the NFL has done enough for retired players who suffer from brain injuries after sustaining concussions during their playing days?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 22 |
| 2. No | 54 |
| 3. Don't know | 24 |

5. NY Jets offensive lineman D'Brickashaw Ferguson just announced his retirement after never missing a game for his entire 10-year career. He had stated that he was troubled by the NFL's downplaying the long-term effects of concussions.

Do you think his retirement will raise awareness of the subject of head injuries or not have any effect on awareness?

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Raise awareness | 49 |
| 2. Have no effect | 36 |
| 3. Don't know | 15 |

6. Do you think greater precautions should be taken by high school and college football organizations to limit the number of concussions by student/athletes, or is enough being done?

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. Greater precautions | 80 |
| 2. Enough being done | 13 |
| 3. Don't know | 8 |

7. If your son wanted to play football would you enthusiastically encourage it, cautiously allow it or absolutely forbid it?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| 1. Enthusiastically encourage | 21 |
| 2. Cautiously allow | 56 |
| 3. Absolutely forbid | 18 |
| 4. Don't know | 6 |

8. The Commissioner of the NBA has said he wants to raise the minimum age for eligibility to the NBA draft from 19 to 20. In effect, this means players would have to finish two years of college before becoming eligible instead of one year as it is now. Do you think they should leave the rule as it is now at one year, change to two years, or have no limits for when a player can be drafted?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. One year | 13 |
| 2. Two years | 55 |
| 3. No limits | 19 |
| 4. Don't know | 11 |

9. If collegiate athletes begin to receive salaries would your interest in following college athletics increase, decrease or remain the same?

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Increase | 11 |
| 2. Decrease | 24 |
| 3. Remain the same | 64 |

10. Collegiate hockey has seen more participation recently. How interested would you be in seeing further growth of hockey on the collegiate level, very interested, somewhat interested or not at all interested?

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. Very interested | 16 |
| 2. Somewhat interested | 28 |
| 3. Not interested | 51 |
| 4. Don't know | 6 |

11. Members of the US Women's Soccer team have filed suit against USA Soccer because despite winning the Women's World Cup they received about one quarter of what the men, who finished 15th, received. Do you think the women should receive more than the men, the same as the men or less than the men?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. More | 11 |
| 2. Same | 73 |
| 3. Less | 8 |
| 4. Don't know | 9 |

12. Do you either play golf, follow golf or watch golf broadcasts?

- | | |
|---------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 39 |
| 2. No | 57 |
| 3. Don't know | 4 |

13. How likely would you be to buy a product endorsed by the following players:

13. Jordan Spieth	
1. Likely	17
2. Not likely	56
3. Don't know	27

14. Rory McIlroy	
1. Likely	19
2. Not likely	54
3. Don't know	28

15. Phil Mickelson	
1. Likely	24
2. Not likely	55
3. Don't know	22

16. Danny Willett	
1. Likely	9
2. Not likely	61
3. Don't know	30

17. Tiger Woods	
1. Likely	21
2. Not likely	62
3. Don't know	17

18. How closely would you say you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?

1. Very closely	19
2. Closely	41
3. Not closely	28
4. Not at all	13