

**ON THIS THEY CAN AGREE:  
DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS FAVOR SALARY CONTROLS,  
FEEL BASEBALL COMPETITION WEAKENED BY  
BIG MARKET, HIGH PAYROLL TEAMS**

**SETON HALL SPORTS POLL ALSO MEASURES INTEREST IN  
BASEBALL'S POST-SEASON**

South Orange, NJ, October 30, 2006 – With eyes turned towards next week's national elections, and with a belief that the US is deeply divided along political lines, a Seton Hall University Sports Poll conducted by The Sharkey Institute finds that Democrats, Republicans and independents share common beliefs about competition in Major League Baseball and interest in the post-season.

The poll, taken during baseball's League Championships Series, asked a random sampling of 725 adults 18 and older to identify themselves by party affiliation, and then asked, "How much do you think competition in Major League Baseball is weakened because big market teams can afford higher payrolls than small market teams."

Those identifying themselves as Democrats numbered 69% in saying "some" or "a lot" weakened, while Republicans went 68% as "some" or "a lot." Independents agreed, saying "some" or "a lot" by 68%.

Asked "Would you favor or oppose a strict set of salary controls to make the competition more even," Democrats went 66% in favor of salary controls, Republicans 67% and independents 66%.

"The business of baseball makes strange bedfellows", said ' noted Tony Loviscek, chair, Finance & Legal Studies Department at Seton Hall. "It seems as though Republicans are in bed with the Democrats when it comes to applying the Calvin Coolidge quote 'The business of America is business,' Both Republicans and Democrats strongly favor the distinctly anti-business, 'unlaissez-faire' stance of curtailing the power of big-market teams and capping their salary structures. 'Say it ain't so, Joe,' a quote from the 1919 Black Sox days, appears to be alive and well when it comes to baseball fans who want to believe that the business of baseball is not business."

Asked how closely were following the upcoming elections, the poll respondents weighed in as 73% either "very" or "fairly closely" (Democrats), 68% either "very" or "fairly closely" (Republicans) and 49% either "very" or "fairly closely" (independents). Similarly asked about following the post-season baseball playoffs, Democrats said 35% either "very" or "fairly closely", Republicans 36.2% either "very" or "fairly closely", and independents 30% either "very" or "fairly closely".

"These results reflect an occasion when liberal and conservative ideas of equality coincide," said Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D. Acting Dean, College of Arts and Sciences "For liberals the concern is often that equality be realized in the end result of a policy, in this instance produced by the salary cap that in a sense equalizes earnings all around. For conservatives, the concern on equality usually focuses on opportunity and leveling the playing field, so that all can compete fairly. The current revenue sharing structure in baseball produces a tilted field that unfairly benefits the larger market teams, reducing the competitive nature of the sport."

"We see the parties showing similar levels of interest, but greater interest in the elections than in baseball's post-season," noted Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll and a professor at Seton Hall's Stillman School of Business, Center for Sport Management.

**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](http://www.shu.edu).

\* The poll was conducted by telephone among a random digit dial sample of 725 adults ages 18 and older living in the continental United States. The poll was sponsored by Seton Hall University. The poll was weighted to account for an over-sample of areas where African American are more likely to reside and for differences in household size, age, race and gender. The margin of error due to sampling is +/- 3.75 percentage points for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error.

The data:

In thinking of the stories covered by news organizations this past month, tell me if you are following the post-season baseball playoffs very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too	Not at all closely
Democrat	15	21	19	46
Republican	13	23	25	39
Independent	10	19	21	49

How much do you think competition in Major League Baseball is weakened because big market teams can afford higher payrolls than small market teams: a lot, some, not much, not at all?

	A lot	Some	Not much	Not at all
Democrat	39	30	10	11
Republican	35	34	11	11
Independent	41	27	12	10

Would you favor or oppose a strict set of salary controls to make the competition more even?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Democrat	66	23	11
Republican	67	23	11
Independent	66	20	14

Do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else?

In thinking of the stories covered by news organizations this past month, tell me if you are following the upcoming elections in November very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too	Not at all closely
Democrat	37	36	17	11
Republican	30	38	23	9
Independent	19	31	25	25