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ESPN's Outside the Lines Reveals Seton Hall Sports Poll Results on Steroids Following Admission by Alex Rodriguez

26% Say More Than Half of MLB Players Currently Use HGH



Today's (Sunday's) Outside the Lines revealed the results of a public opinion poll following the admission by Alex Rodriguez that he took steroids. The phone poll, commissioned last week by ESPN and done by the Seton Hall Sports Poll, which is connected with Seton Hall University, queried more than 500 "people who follow sports." Questions ranged from what caused baseball's unprecedented power-hitting numbers and what would you think if those power numbers were to decline significantly, to whether Rodriguez should be voted into the Hall of Fame.

Among the findings:

- Despite the notion that allegations and admission of steroid use will prevent players from being elected to the Hall Of Fame, fans are split on whether Rodriguez or Barry Bonds should be elected, while of those who answered the question, most believe (43%-36%) Clemens should be elected.
- More than 80% of respondents believe there is current use of HGH in baseball. More than 25% of the respondents believe over half of the players are currently using HGH.
- Nearly three times as many respondents believe steroids are more prevalent in MLB (61%) than in the NFL (22.3%).
- The economy is perceived as a much bigger problem for baseball than steroids. Of those who say they will attend fewer games this year, 74% say it is because of the economy, 6% says it is because of the use of performance-enhancing drugs in the sport. Further, fans say players making too much money is baseball's biggest problem, and say that by a 40% to 23% margin over steroids.
- While more fans (30%) say home-run hitting is their favorite aspect of the game,

overwhelmingly they say a decline in power numbers won't decrease their interest in the game.

Results of ESPN/Seton Hall Sports Poll announced today on ESPN's *Outside the Lines*:

Margin of error: 4%

What is your favorite aspect of Major League Baseball?

Home Run hitting	29.7%
Great pitching	25.9%
Speed on the bases	14.9%
Defense	9.6%
Other	5.1%
Don't know/refuse to answer	14.8%

If home run numbers declined, would your interest in baseball...

Remain the same	79.9%
Decrease	8.5%
Don't know/refuse to answer	6.0%
Increase	5.6%

Why so many HRs over the past 15 years?

Performance enhancing drugs	53.2%
Hitter friendly parks	13.9%
Inferior pitching	13.9%
Don't know/refuse to answer	12.5%
Other	6.5%

Biggest problem with Major League Baseball?

Players make too much money	40.3%
Steroids	22.5%
Too much money to attend	21.1%
Games too long	8.3%
Other	2.6%

Why would you attend fewer games this season?

The economy	73.9%
Other	7.3%
Your team is not very good	6.9%
Don't know/refuse to answer	6.3%
Players' use of PHD	5.6%

How much do you care about MLB players using steroids?

A lot	64.1%
Not at all	17.7%

A little	16.9%
Don't know/refuse to answer	1.2%

Because of drugs, I now take baseball records...

Less seriously	59.9%
No effect	33.2%
Don't know/refuse to answer	7.0%

In which league are steroids most prevalent?

MLB	61.0%
NFL	22.3%
Don't know/refuse to answer	9.0%
NBA	2.9%
NASCAR	2.4%
NHL	2.3%

What % of baseball players use HGH?

51+	25.8%
26-50	22.9%
11-25	18.5%
Don't know/refuse to answer	17.6%
1-10	14.7%
0	0.5%

Should Bonds be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame?

No	44.9%
Yes	41.7%
Don't know/refuse to answer	13.4%

Would you change your mind if Bonds were found not guilty?

No	56.1%
Yes	26.0%
Don't know/refuse to answer	17.9%

Should Rodriguez be elected to the Hall of Fame?

Yes	41.6%
No	40.8%
Don't know/refuse to answer	17.6%

Would a further apology change your mind about Rodriguez?

No	69.0%
Don't know/refuse to answer	16.6%
Yes	14.4%

Should Clemens be elected to the Hall of Fame?

Yes	43.1%
No	36.3%
Don't know/refuse to answer	20.6%

Would an apology change your mind about Clemens?

No	68.4%
Don't know/refuse to answer	23.2%
Yes	8.4%

While allegations of steroid use among Major League Baseball players have grabbed the headlines, there is the potential that HGH use is going undetected since Major League Baseball does not test for that performance-enhancing drug. What percentage of major leaguers use HGH?

0%	X%
1-10%	X%
11-25%	X%
26-50%	X%
51+%	X%

Are Major League Baseball's unprecedented power numbers for the past 15 years mostly the result of:

Performance-enhancing drugs	X%
The increase in hitter-friendly parks	X%
Baseball expansion	X%

In which league has the use of performance-enhancing drugs – detected or undetected – been most prevalent over the past decade?

MLB	X%
NASCAR	X%
NBA	X%
NFL	X%
NHL	X%

How many Major League Baseball games do you typically attend during the season?
Average: **XX**

How many Major League Baseball games do you expect to attend in 2009?
Average: **XX**

If you plan to attend fewer games in 2009 than in the past, why?

MLB players' use of performance-enhancing drugs	X%
Economy	X%
My favorite team is not very good	X%

Other X%

What is the most attractive part of Major League Baseball for you?

Defense X%
Power hitting X%
Power pitching X%
Speed X%

If Major League Baseball power-hitting numbers were to decline significantly, what would be your reaction?

I'd be less interested in the game X%
I'd be more interested in the game X%
My interest in the game would not change X%

Should Barry Bonds be elected to the Hall of Fame?

Yes X%
No X%

If no, would you change your mind if he is found not guilty in his trial on perjury charges?

Yes X%
No X%

Should Alex Rodriguez be elected to the Hall of Fame?

Yes X%
No

If no, would a more detailed accounting of his drug use and a further apology change your mind?

Yes X%
No X%