

Seton Hall Sports Poll

**ONE IN THREE THINK PLAYERS SHAVE POINTS
IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL**

**Half Think Most Colleges Break Recruiting Rules;
77% Want Coaches More Tightly Controlled**

S. Orange, NJ, March 21, 2013 – Nearly one in three Americans feels that college basketball players intentionally influence the outcomes of games because of gambling interests, according to a Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week.

The question is asked annually by the Poll during the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and the 30% "yes" response is the highest it has registered. In asking the same question in the previous three years, the yes response ranged from 23% to 28%.

In addition, 46% said they felt that most, or almost all college basketball programs break recruiting rules, and 48% feel that college athletes should not be permitted to go pro until their class graduates.

The poll was conducted among 701 randomly dialed adults throughout the US (including cellphone users) and has a +/- 3.8% margin of error.

"While these responses do not reflect solid majorities, there is a significant perception that college sports is very much flawed," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by the Sharkey Institute. "The numbers remain consistent, and this is an issue that really should be addressed by the NCAA and college conferences. Imagine if 30% of fans thought pro sports were rigged. There would be outrage."

Asked if basketball and football coaches should be more tightly supervised by their universities, 77% said yes and only 16% said no. The 77% figure matched last year's finding.

"This is an era of coaches making millions," added Gentile. "Some of them seem to leave their schools with penalties imposed while they move onto greener pastures."

Some think this wealth should be shared. 25% think student athletes should be paid a salary (in addition to their scholarships) when competing in revenue producing sports, while 71% said they should not.

About Seton Hall University

For more than 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.

About the poll:

This poll was conducted by telephone March 18-20, 2013 among 701 adults nationwide.

Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus 3.5 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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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NCAA POLL – MARCH 18-20, 2013

- 1) The US Secretary of Education has proposed that a university only be allowed to participate in the NCAA basketball tournament if 40% of its players have graduated in the past. Do you think 40% is appropriate, should be higher, lower or should there be no requirement at all?

		2012 (+/-3.6%)
1. Appropriate	23%	16
2. Higher	46	57
3. Lower	1	2
4. No requirement	22	19
5. Don't know/refuse to answer	8	6

- 2) How much importance do you think universities place on graduating basketball players, a high importance, medium importance, little importance or no importance?

1. High importance	25	22
2. Medium importance	40	37
3. Low importance	19	23
4. No importance	7	7
5. Don't know/refuse to answer	9	12

3) Do you think students who receive athletic scholarships should be prevented from playing professionally until their class graduates, or should they be allowed to go pro sooner?

1. Prevented from going pro	48	42
2. Allowed to go pro	45	49
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	8	10

4) The president of the NCAA proposed that college basketball players be required to play at least two years before becoming eligible for the NBA Draft. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

1. Agree	63	58
2. Disagree	30	32
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	7	10

5) How many college basketball programs do you think break the rules in recruiting athletes, all or almost all of them, most of them, only some of them, or very few or none of them?

1. All or almost all	18	16
2. Most	28	27
3. Only some	34	33
4. Very few or none	10	11
5. Don't know/refuse to answer	11	13

6) Do you think it hurts the game when colleges recruit athletes they know won't stay for the full duration of their eligibility?

1. Hurts	61	59
2. Doesn't hurt	32	29
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	7	13

7) Do you think student/athletes should be paid a salary (in addition to their scholarships) to participate in revenue-producing college sports?

1. Yes	25	24
2. No	71	69
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	4	7

8) Do you think basketball and football coaches should be more tightly supervised by their universities?

Yes	77	77
No	16	14
Don't know/refuse to answer	8	9

9) Do you think the publishing of point spreads encourages gambling on college basketball or not?

1. Yes	65	58
2. No	20	25
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	14	17

10) Do you think that college basketball players intentionally influence the outcomes of games because of gambling interests?

		2012	2011	2010
1. Yes	30	28	23	25
2. No	56	53	63	65
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	14	19	14	11

11) How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, somewhat or not at all?

1. Very closely	23	19
2. Closely	19	21
3. Somewhat closely	42	41
4. Not at all	16	19

12) Do you think the movement of universities from one athletic conference to another is good for college athletics, bad for college athletics or has no impact?

1. Good	30
2. Bad	21
3. No impact	29
4. Don't know/refuse to answer	19