

## **63% FEEL COLLEGE BASKETBALL IS HURT WHEN SCHOOLS RECRUIT ATHLETES THEY KNOW WON'T STAY**

### ***27% BELIEVE PLAYERS INTENTIONALLY INFLUENCE OUTCOMES BECAUSE OF GAMBLING INTERESTS***

#### **SETON HALL SPORTS POLL CONDUCTED THIS WEEK SURVEYS ATTITUDES ON COLLEGE HOOPS AS NCAA FINAL FOUR WEEKEND ARRIVES**

S. Orange, NJ, March 30, 2007 – A Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week, with the approach of the Final Four weekend of the NCAA basketball championship, found that 63% of respondents believe that it hurts the game when colleges recruit athletes they know won't stay for the full duration of their eligibility.

When asked if schools should not be allowed to use one of their already limited number of basketball scholarships until the departing athlete's eligibility has expired, as a way of deterring recruitment of athletes who will leave early, 47% favored this policy with 35% opposed. 16% did not know.

When asked if they thought that college basketball players intentionally influence the outcome of games because of gambling interests, 27% said yes and 60% said no.

"With the same question about point shaving a year ago" noted Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute. "We had a 19% agreement rate, so that's a significant increase in fan skepticism. This should send off alarms throughout collegiate sports. It is a very disturbing piece of information"

Asked whether college athletes should be paid a salary, 78% indicated no, with 21% saying yes.

On the matter of attention to televised commercials, respondents were asked whether in general they are paying more attention, less attention or about the same as compared with viewing of other sporting events. 64% said "about the same," 30% said "less" and 5% said "more attention."

The poll was held between March 26-28 by the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute. A total of 514 people responded to the random calling across the nation.\*

The data:

1. Do you consider yourself a sports fan?

Yes 68%

No 31%

2. How much importance do you think most coaches place on graduating basketball players? A High Importance, Medium Importance, Little Importance or No Importance?

High Importance 36%

Medium Importance	40%
Little Importance	13%
No Importance	4%
Don't know	7%

3. How much importance do you think most universities place on graduating basketball players? A High Importance, Medium Importance, Little Importance, or No Importance?

High Importance	38%
Medium Importance	38%
Little Importance	14%
No Importance	3%
Don't know	7%

4. Do you think schools should be punished by the NCAA if scholarship athletes have to leave school because they fail to make grades, or not?

Yes	36%
No	58%
Don't know	6%

5. Do you think that students who receive athletic scholarships should be prevented from playing professionally until their class graduates or should they be allowed to go pro?

Prevent	46%
Go pro	49%
Don't know	5%

6. Do you think that there should be a minimum age at which an athlete can be eligible for the National Basketball Association draft?

Yes	63%
No	33%
Don't know	4%

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

All or almost all	18%
Most of them	29%
Only some	33%
Very few or none	11%
Don't know	9%

8. Do you think college athletes should be paid a salary?

Yes	21%
No	78%
Don't know	2%

9. Do you think, it hurts the game, or it doesn't hurt the game when colleges recruit athletes they know won't stay for the full duration of their eligibility?

Hurts	63%
Doesn't hurt	27%
Don't know	9%

10. To deter the recruitment of athletes who will leave school early, it has been proposed that schools not be allowed to use one of their already limited number of basketball scholarships until the departing athlete's eligibility has expired. Do you favor or oppose this policy?

Favor	47%
Oppose	35%
Don't know	16%

11. Do you think the publishing of point spreads encourages gambling in college basketball, or not?

Yes	63%
No	27%
Don't know	10%

12. Do you think that college basketball players intentionally influence the outcome of games because of gambling interests, or not?

Yes	27%
No	60%
Don't know	13%

13. Do you or anyone in your family participate in any pools regarding the NCAA Tournament?

Yes	25% GO TO QUESTION 14
No	75% SKIP TO QUESTION 15

14. If someone wins the pool do they get cash or some other type of prize?

Cash	76%
Other prizes	12%
No Cash or other prize	6%
Don't know	4%

15. Have you watched on television any of the games of the current NCAA basketball championship tournament?

Yes	64%	go to question 16
No	36%	

16. Comparing your viewing of these games to your viewing of other sporting events, would you say that in general you are paying more attention to the commercials, less attention, or about the same?

More attention	5%
Less attention	30%
About the same	64%
Don't know	2%

17. Again, comparing your viewing to other sporting events, do you think you are more likely to buy something that is advertised during these games, less likely, or about the same as other sporting events.

More likely	4%
Less likely	22%
About the same	71%
Don't know	2%

### **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 514 adults ages 18 and older living in the continental United States. The poll was sponsored by Seton Hall University. The poll was weighted to it reflect the national distribution age, race and gender. The margin of error due to sampling is +/- 4.4 percentage points for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error.

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