

GOP HOLDS ITS OWN VS. NFL AND MLB

Seton Hall Sports Poll Finds No Call for NCAA Oversight on Conference Shifting

60% Want More Replays in Baseball

S. Orange, NJ, September 22, 2011 – The contest for the Republican presidential nomination has captured the interest of Americans on a par with the NFL and MLB, according to a poll by the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted this week.

34% cited the GOP race as the one they were most interested in, compared to 35% citing the NFL season and 20% the MLB post-season. Even among those who follow sports, 28% cited the Republican contest as most interesting to them.

The poll was conducted among 959 randomly dialed people across the country with a margin of error of 3%, (and an error of 4% among those who follow sports).

Without the GOP option, football doubled baseball 54%-27% with 18% expressing no interest in either.

“It will be while before the GOP candidates get into the red zone,” said Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by The Sharkey Institute. “But the field at the moment, sorting itself out, seems to have provided Americans with a competition that’s produced strong interest, even stacked against the two biggest sports leagues in the country.”

Meanwhile, the poll found the nation is evenly divided over whether NCAA should get involved in the switching of conference membership by colleges. The conference jumping, the subject of much attention recently, did not find a majority looking for NCAA oversight, with 32% feeling the NCAA should be involved, and 33% saying no, a difference well within the margin of error. (35% had no opinion or did not care).

“This is a microcosm of almost all things about the anarchy reigning in college sports these days,” said Gentile. “So many issues find a third in favor, a third opposed, and a third with no opinion. Add this to the list.”

As baseball heads for its post season (with the Yankees the choice of 17% to win it all; the Phillies 10% and no one else in double digits), the issue of video replay scores high with fans, with 60% wanting to extend its use to one similar to the NFL. A much smaller number – only 30% - favors adding an extra wild card team to the playoffs.

Favorable Opinions of the Four Commissioners

While only a third of the people have clear opinions of the four major sports commissioners, those that do see them very favorably. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell with 28% favorable, 7% unfavorable and MLB Commissioner Bud Selig with 28% favorable and 11% unfavorable lead the list. They are followed by NBA Commissioner David Stern at 23% favorable to 13% unfavorable and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman with 19%, favorable to 4% unfavorable.

“This is impressive given their involvement over the years in divisive labor issues, drug testing and other hot button issues” said Gentile. “Politicians in both parties should be envious.”

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.

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The results:

1. Which of the following upcoming events are you most interested in, Major League Baseball’s post-season, Week 3 of the NFL season, or the competition to determine the Republican presidential candidate?

1 – MLB post-season	20
2 – NFL	35
3 – Republican presidential competition	34
4 – Don’t know/	10

(IF ANSWER IS MLB OR NFL SKIP TO QUESTION 3)

2. Are you more interested in baseball or football, or do you have no interest in either?

1 – Baseball	15
2 – Football	43
3 – No interest in either	39

- 2A. Which of the following upcoming events are you most interest in?

1- Baseball	27
2- Football	54
3- No interest in either	18

3. How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, somewhat closely, or not at all?

1 – Very closely	21
2 – Closely	17
3 – Somewhat closely	44
4 – Not at all	18

4. Do you think the NCAA should be involved in regulating the movement of schools between conferences?

1 – Yes	32
2 – No	33
3 – Don't know/	35

5. As the new college football season has begun, several traditional national powers (Ohio State, Miami, and LSU among others) have had players suspended for NCAA rules violations. Do you think the NCAA wields too much power, the right amount, or is too lenient with regard to players' eligibility?

1 – Too much power	20
2 – Right amount	37
3 – Too lenient	21
4 – Don't know/	23

6. Do you think student/athletes should be paid a salary if they participate in intercollegiate sports?

1 – Yes	27
2 – No	65
3 – Don't know/	8

7. In order to insure compliance by schools and athletes, do you think the NCAA's rules need to be more flexible, less flexible, or remain the same?

1 – More flexible	28
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2 - Less flexible	14
3 - Remain the same	36
4 - Don't know/	21

8. Which team do you think will win this year's upcoming World Series?

DO NOT READ THE CHOICES

1 - Arizona Diamondbacks	2
2 - Atlanta Braves	3
3 - Boston Red Sox	7
4 - Detroit Tigers	3
5 - Los Angeles Angels	1
6 - Milwaukee Brewers	2
7 - New York Yankees	17
8 - Philadelphia Phillies	10
9 - San Francisco Giants	2
10 - St. Louis Cardinals	1
11 - Tampa Bay Rays	-
12 - Texas Rangers	2
13 - Other	5
14 - Don't know/	44

9. Do you think an extra wild card team should be included in baseball's post-season?

1 - Yes	30
2 - No	45
3 - Don't know/	26

10. If a second wild card team is added in each league, how many games do you think the wild card playoff should be?

1 - One game playoff	9
2 - Best of three	22
3 - Best of five	18
4 - Best of seven	7
5 - Don't know/	44

11. Do you think MLB should institute a replay review system similar to the one used by the NFL?

1 - Yes	60
2 - No	23

3 - Don't know/ 17

PLEASE TELL ME IF YOUR OPINION OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IS FAVORABLE, UNFAVORABLE OR IF YOU ARE INDIFFERENT:

12. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell

1 - Favorable	28
2 - Unfavorable	7
3 - Indifferent	48
4 - Don't know/	17

13. NBA Commissioner David Stern

1 - Favorable	23
2 - Unfavorable	13
3 - Indifferent	45
4 - Don't know/	20

14. MLB Commissioner Bud Selig

1 - Favorable	28
2 - Unfavorable	11
3 - Indifferent	43
4 - Don't know/	10

15. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman

1 - Favorable	19
2 - Unfavorable	4
3 - Indifferent	52
4 - Don't know/	25