

## **RACE CONTINUES TO DIVIDE OPINIONS WHEN IT COMES TO BARRY BONDS**

### **NEW SETON HALL SPORTS POLL SHOWS 74% SAY HE KNOWINGLY TOOK PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS**

S. Orange, NJ, December 5, 2007 – With Barry Bonds under indictment for perjury and his major league career on hold, the Seton Hall Sports Poll asked a national random sampling of 631 people some opinion questions about Major League Baseball's all-time home leader.

The poll was held November ~~XX-XX~~ by the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute. 13% of the respondents identified themselves as black, and 3% as Hispanic. On many issues, there was a clear racial divide to the answers.

Seton Hall conducts the only academically based sports poll in the US.

Asked why they feel that Bonds has received the most attention in the ongoing steroid controversy, 3% of those identifying themselves as white said it was his race, while 20% of blacks said that was the case. A combined 31% of blacks and Hispanics cited race.

Sixty-seven percent of whites felt the main reason for Bonds's attention was his breaking of the home run record, while only 16% black and 7% Hispanic thought that was the primary reason. The groups were most in sync in claiming it was his relationship with the media, with 40% of whites citing that, 41% of blacks, and 9% of Hispanics.

"Race continues to be at the heart of public perception," noted Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute. "Many were shocked by the divisions expressed during the O.J. Simpson trial; now, the shock is less, and the issue remains."

One issue that seems clear to all groups is a belief that Bonds knowingly took performance enhancing drugs. 78% of whites, 64% of blacks and 67% of Hispanics felt he did. Asked if he was being treated fairly or unfairly by the media, 53% of whites said he was being treated fairly, but only 26% of blacks and 44% of Hispanics agreed.

Asked whether he should be allowed to play baseball next season or be banned until the resolution of his impending court case, 49% overall said he should be allowed, breaking out very evenly among the races: 49% of whites, 50% of blacks, 44% of Hispanics. In terms of eventually being inducted into the Hall of Fame (if found guilty), only 30% overall said he should be eligible, with 25% of whites saying eligible, 45% of blacks and 47% of Hispanics.

Thirty-eight percent of all respondents believe that more than half of Major League players used drugs to improve their performance, with 36% saying less than half, and 20% saying less than 10%.

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

\* The poll was conducted by telephone among a random digit dial sample of 631 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 +/- **XX** percentage points for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error.

*Contact: Marty Appel Public Relations 212 245-1772*