

**Seton Hall Sports Poll on Bonds Perjury Trial, NCAA Tournament**

**NATION BELIEVES BONDS CASE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DROPPED  
EVEN THOUGH THEY THINK HE IS GUILTY**

**FANS LOVE NEW NCAA BROADCAST FORMAT**

S. Orange, NJ, March 31, 2011 – A Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week shows that while 74% of Americans think Barry Bonds knowingly took performance enhancing drugs, (PEDs), 62% feel that the case should have been dropped.

The sentiment is a little more sympathetic to Bonds among African-Americans. Eighty-two percent of African-Americans say the case should have been dropped (vs. 58% for whites), while 62% of African-Americans believe he knowingly took PEDs (vs. 78% for whites). The poll, conducted among 747 people, has a +/- margin of error of 3.6%, which is larger for the smaller number of African-American respondents.

Fifty-two percent of respondents feel media coverage of Bonds has been fair, with no significant difference between whites and African Americans.

The poll shows that 30% maintain some or high interest in the trial, currently taking place in San Francisco, while 65% say they have little or no interest in the story.

“Since the trial has it all – sex, drugs, and celebrity – it’s interesting to see that two out of three respondents have little or no interest,” noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by The Sharkey Institute. “This remains consistent with our polls from when he was still an active player.”

**FANS LIKE HAVING FULL NCAA TOURNAMENT GAMES ON FOUR NETWORKS**

Meanwhile, a huge 81% said television coverage by four networks, allowing games to be shown in their entirety, was an improvement on the way it has been presented in the past.

Only 12% say they have watched any live coverage on the Internet.

An overwhelming 82% feel that college basketball programs break rules in recruiting athletes (either some, most or all of the schools), and 60% say it hurts the game when colleges recruit athletes they know won’t stay for their full eligibility. This is consistent with previous polls asking the same questions.

A large majority of people support Education Secretary Arne Duncan’s belief that tournament-eligible teams should graduate 40% of its players, and 59% (up from 52% last year), think the percentage should be even higher.

A large number - 23% of Americans – almost one in four – believe that college basketball players intentionally influence the outcome of games because of gambling interests.

“This,” says Gentile, “remains an alarmingly high number of people who think the games are cooked. Yet there is apathy about it for reasons that are hard to understand.”

### **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).

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

1 – Very closely	19
2 – Closely	17
3 – Somewhat closely	38
4 – Not at all	26

**The Final Four of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament will take place on Saturday. The U.S. Secretary of Education has proposed that a university should only be allowed to participate in the NCAA Tournament if 40% of its players graduate.**

2. Do you think 40% is appropriate, should it be higher, lower, or there should be no requirement at all?

1 – 40%	13
2 – Higher	59
3 – Lower	3
4 – No requirement	20

3. 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 of them?

1 - All or almost all	21
2 - Most	29
3 - Some	32
4 - Very few	10

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

1 - Yes (hurts)	60
2 - No (doesn't hurt)	29
3 - Don't know	12

5. Have you watched any television coverage of this year's NCAA Tournament?

1 - Yes	62
2 - No	34

**(IF YES TO ABOVE)**

6. This year, for the first time, NCAA Tournament games have been shown in their entirety by four different television networks. Do you think this is an improvement over the way the tournament has been presented in the past?

1 - Yes	81
2 - No	11

7. Have you watched any live coverage of the tournament on the internet?

1 - Yes	12
2 - No	84

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

1 - Yes	61
2 - No	28
3 - Don't know	12

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

1 - Yes	23
2 - No	63
3 - Don't know/Refuse to answer	14

**BARRY BONDS IS CURRENTLY ON TRIAL FOR LYING TO A GRAND JURY ABOUT KNOWINGLY USING PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS DURING HIS PLAYING DAYS.**

10. How would you rate your interest in the trial of Barry Bonds? Do you have a high interest, some interest, little interest or no interest at all?

		White	Black
1 - High interest	6	7	5
2 - Some interest	24	25	15
3 - Little interest	30	31	38
4 - No interest	35	33	36

11. Do you believe Barry Bonds knowingly took performance enhancing drugs?

1 -Yes	74	78	62
2 - No	7	5	16
3 - Don't know	18	17	21

12. Do you think the government should have been spending the money to pursue this case for the past several years or should the case have been dropped?

1 - Should have pursued	25	30	7
2 - Case should have been dropped	62	58	82
3 - Don't know	13	12	11

13. Do you think Barry Bonds has been treated fairly or unfairly by the media?

1 - Fairly	52	53	50
2 - Unfairly	26	25	34
3 - Don't know	22	23	16

14. If found guilty, do you think Barry Bonds should be eligible to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame or banned as Pete Rose has been?

1 - Should be eligible	24	21	42
2 - Should be banned	65	70	47
3 - Don't know	11	10	12

