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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Seton Hall Sports Poll

NEW JERSEYANS SUPPORT CANCELLATION OF SAYREVILLE FOOTBALL SEASON, SUSPENSION OF COACHES, BY 2-1 MARGINS IN SETON HALL SPORTS POLL

On Sports Betting, Women Are from Venus, Men Are from Atlantic City with Vastly Different Levels of Support

S. Orange, NJ, October 30, 2014 --- New Jersey residents strongly support the actions of the local school board in cancelling the Sayreville High School football season and disciplining the coaches, following allegations of hazing against freshmen players. The poll, conducted over three days and concluding last night, was based on random phone calls to land lines and cellphones with New Jersey area codes to 749 people, with a +/- 3.6% margin of error.

On the matter of the suspension of the varsity football program, 57% felt the action was appropriate, with only 25% saying it was an over-reaction. Cancellation of the junior varsity program was also supported, 43%-33%. Cancellation of the freshman program however, did not follow suit, with 41% saying it was an over-reaction, and only 35% finding it appropriate.

There was overwhelming support for the suspension of the coaches with 53% saying it was appropriate and 20% saying it was not severe enough. In a separate question, 56% felt the coaches bear responsibility even without being present at the hazings.

Asked whether the offending players, ranging in age from 15-17, should be tried as juveniles or adults, respondents were almost evenly divided, with 43% saying juveniles and 41% adults. 84% thought that the hazing goes on elsewhere, not just in Sayreville. "This is very strong support for the school board actions, other than the cancellation of the freshman program," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute.

ON SPORTS BETTING IN NEW JERSEY, LUKEWARM SUPPORT, GENDER GAP

New Jersey has passed a law allowing for sports gambling in the state, but respondents showed lukewarm support and a gender gap on the issue. On the bill itself, 50% said yes and 39% said no, but broken down by men and women, 62% of men say yes, and only 38% of women do.

Asked if sports gambling is a good thing or a bad thing for New Jersey, 43% said bad, to

40% saying good, but results were much more divided by gender, with 53% of men saying “good thing,” and only 28% of women saying “good.”

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 October 27-28-29, 2014 among 749 adults in the United States. The Seton Hall Sports Poll is conducted by the Sharkey Institute.

Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard landline and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus 3.6 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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The results:

1. How closely would you say you are following the hazing story involving New Jersey’s Sayreville High School football team, very closely, somewhat closely, not closely or not at all?

1. Very closely	11
2. Somewhat closely	41
3. Not closely	22
4. Not at all	26

2. Seven members of the Sayreville High School varsity football team were arrested for allegedly hazing freshmen team members including sexual assault. Those arrested range in age from 15-17. Do you think they should be tried as adults or juveniles considering that convictions as adults will bring much more serious punishment?

1. Tried as adults	41
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- | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|
| 2. | Tried as juveniles | 43 |
| 3. | Don't know | 16 |

The local school board cancelled three different Sayreville High School football programs for the season. I'm going to ask you about each one.

3. How do you feel about cancelling the varsity program? Was it an over-reaction, appropriate reaction or don't know?

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|
| 1. | Over-reaction | 25 |
| 2. | Appropriate action | 57 |
| 3. | Don't know | 18 |

4. How do you feel about cancelling the junior varsity program? Over-reaction, appropriate action, or don't know?

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|
| 1. | Over-reaction | 33 |
| 2. | Appropriate action | 43 |
| 3. | Don't know | 24 |

5. How do you feel about cancelling the freshman program? Over-reaction, appropriate action or don't know?

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|
| 1. | Over-reaction | 41 |
| 2. | Appropriate action | 35 |
| 3. | Don't know | 24 |

6. Members of the coaching staff have been suspended with pay although they deny any knowledge of the hazing. What is your reaction to the suspension of the coaching staff?

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|
| 1. | Too severe | 12 |
| 2. | Not severe enough | 20 |
| 3. | Appropriate | 53 |
| 4. | Don't know | 15 |

7. Do you think members of the coaching staff at Sayreville High School are responsible for what took place in the players' locker room even though they weren't present?

- | | | |
|----|------------|----|
| 1. | Yes | 56 |
| 2. | No | 28 |
| 3. | Don't know | 16 |

8. In how many other high school football programs do you think hazing occurs, many other programs, a few or only in Sayreville?

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 1. | Many | 52 |
| 2. | A few | 32 |
| 3. | Only Sayreville | 2 |
| 4. | Don't know | 14 |

9. In how many other high school sports programs do you think hazing occurs, many, a few or only football

- | | | |
|----|---------------|----|
| 1. | Many | 38 |
| 2. | A few | 41 |
| 3. | Only football | 6 |
| 4. | Don't know | 15 |

10. Do you think the media coverage of the situation in Sayreville has been fair or unfair?

- | | | |
|----|------------|----|
| 1. | Fair | 57 |
| 2. | Unfair | 16 |
| 3. | Don't know | 27 |

11. Which of the following statements do you agree with most?

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Hazing is a natural process in football programs and is not a problem if there are no physical injuries | 13 |
| 2. | Hazing is a form of bullying and should be abolished in all football programs | |

3. Don't know 10

NOW ON TO A DIFFERENT SUBJECT

12. New Jersey has passed a law allowing for sports gambling in the state. The major professional sports leagues and the NCAA are asking for an injunction to block this law because they say gambling on sporting events is a threat to the integrity of the game. Do you think New Jersey should be able to pass a law allowing sports gambling in the state?

1. Yes 50

2. No 39

3. Don't know 11

13. Do you think allowing sports gambling in the state of New Jersey is a good thing or a bad thing?

1. Good thing 40

2. Bad thing 43

3. Don't know 17

DEMOGRAPHICS

14. How old are you?

One – 18-29

Two – 30-44

Three – 45-59

Four – 60 or over

Five – Refuse to answer

15. Are you White, African American, Hispanic or of Asian origin?

1. White

2. African American

3. Hispanic

4. Asian

5. Other
6. Refuse to answer

16. I know this is an obvious question, but I have to ask it anyway. Are you male or female?

1. Male
2. Female
3. Refuse to answer