



STILLMAN SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS
The Sharkey Institute

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Seton Hall Sports Poll

THREE-QUARTERS OF AMERICANS NOW SAY PRESIDENT TRUMP SHOULD STAY OUT OF NFL ANTHEM CONTROVERSY;

Two-Thirds Say Keeping Players in Locker Room Is Not An Effective Strategy

S. Orange, NJ, November 30, 2017 -- A Seton Hall Sports Poll has found that 71% of Americans would like President Trump to stay out of the NFL controversy surrounding the protest actions of players during the national anthem. 23% say he should continue to comment.

Just a month ago, 37% felt it was appropriate for the President to get involved in the issue, when the question was posed regarding his call for a petition to support standing for the anthem.

“That represents a rather dramatic decline in just 30 days regarding the President’s personal involvement,” said Poll Director Rick Gentile. “The 37% support last month was in line with his general support on most issues. It could certainly indicate that the public wants to say ‘enough!’”

The poll was taken this week (November 27-29) across the nation, on both landlines and cell phones, with randomly placed telephone calls. The poll is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute. There were 719 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 3.7%.

The poll asked if keeping players in the locker room during the playing of the national anthem next season would be an effective way for the NFL to deal with the controversy. 63% said no, and 27% said yes.

The Poll also asked whether people intended to purchase any NFL merchandise this holiday season, with 20% saying yes and 74% saying no. Of those saying yes a fifth said they were affected by the current controversies, and of those saying no, a third were affected by the controversies.

As for the rehiring of Roger Goodell as NFL commissioner, only 19% felt his contract should be extended, while double that - 39% - said the NFL should look for a new commissioner. 42% didn't know or had no opinion. Among those saying they were African-American, 43% were in favor of his contract being extended, while only 15% of whites were so inclined.

The Poll also asked whether the current method for determining the college football championship is fair to all qualifying NCAA schools. 34% said yes, 23% no, with 43% indicating "don't know" or not having an opinion.

The Official Seton Hall Sports Poll podcast discussing this topic with Seth Everett and Rick Gentile can be found at <https://itunes.apple.com/mt/podcast/seton-hall-sports-poll/id1053266467>.

ABOUT SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall University has been a catalyst for leadership — developing students in mind, heart and spirit — since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 academic programs, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, and is only 14 miles by train, bus or car from New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The university's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark.

For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

About the poll:

This poll was conducted by telephone November 27-29 among 719 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 3.8 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.

Media: Media: Marty Appel, AppelPR@gmail.com; Rick Gentile (917) 881-9489
Michael Ricciardelli, Associate Director of Media Relations, Seton Hall
michael.ricciardelli@shu.edu, 908-447-3034

The results:

1. Several NFL owners have proposed a rule stating all players remain in the locker room during the playing of the National Anthem next season to avoid on field protests and the reactions to them. Do you think this would be an effective way for the NFL to deal with the controversy?
 - 1 Yes 27%
 - 2 No 63
 - 3 Don't know/No opinion 9

2. President Trump originally said all NFL players protesting during the playing of the anthem should be fired and now he is criticizing this new owners' proposal. Do you think the President should continue to comment on this subject or stay out of the controversy?
 1. Continue to comment 23
 2. Stay out of it 71
 3. Don't know/No opinion 6

3. The NFL is currently negotiating a very lucrative contract extension for Commissioner Roger Goodell. Do you think Goodell deserves to have his contract extended or should the owners be looking for a new commissioner?
 1. Extend contract 19
 2. Look for replacement 39
 3. Don't know/No opinion 42

4. Dallas Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones has positioned himself as a direct adversary to Commissioner Goodall in opposing the contract extension. Do you think his stance is good for the NFL, bad for the NFL or makes no difference?
 1. Good for the NFL 17
 2. Bad for the NFL 13
 3. Makes no difference 44
 4. Don't know/No opinion 26

5. Do you intend to purchase any NFL merchandise this holiday season?
 1. Yes 20
 2. No 74
 3. Don't know 6

6. Is the ongoing controversy over players kneeling during the anthem affecting your decision regarding purchasing NFL merchandise?
 1. Yes 27
 2. No 69
 3. Don't know/No opinion 4

7. Do you think the current method for determining the college football championship is fair to all qualifying NCAA schools?
 1. Yes 34
 2. No 23
 3. Don't know/No opinion 43

8. How closely would you say you follow sports, Very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?

1. Very closely	22
2. Closely	35
3. Not closely	29
4. Not at all	14