

## **LESS THAN ONE IN THREE FEEL HIGH IMPORTANCE IS PLACED ON GRADUATION FOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL PLAYERS**

### ***NEARLY ONE IN FOUR THINK PLAYERS MANIPULATE POINTS FOR SPREADS***

S. Orange, NJ, April 4, 2008 – As the NCAA Basketball tournament moves towards conclusion in the coming days, a poll conducted by Seton Hall Sports Poll finds that only 31% of fans believe a high importance is placed on graduation by colleges, and that nearly one in four – 24% - feel that players manipulate points to meet point spreads set by gambling entities.

“The NCAA is not getting the right message out to the public.” said Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute. “These are not percentages that reflect where they would like public perception to be.”

The poll was conducted by telephone March 17-19 among a random digit dial sample of 378 adults ages 18 and older living in the continental United States. The poll was weighted to reflect the national distribution age, race and gender. The margin of error due to sampling is +/- 5.2 percentage points for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error.

62% of those polled felt that at least half the colleges break rules in their recruitment of athletes, while 54% feel that players should be allowed to turn pro before their class graduates if they so choose. 66% think that the publication of point spreads encourages gambling.

#### **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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How much importance do you think most coaches place on graduating basketball players? A high importance, medium importance, little importance or no importance?

High importance	31%
Medium importance	38%
Little importance	18%
No importance	4%

Do you think that students who receive athletic scholarships should be prevented from playing professionally until their class graduates or should they be allowed to go pro?

Prevented from playing professionally	40%
Allowed to go pro	54%

How many college basketball programs, do you think, break the rules in recruiting athletes? Would you say more than half, about half or less than half?

More than half	41%
About half	21%
Less than half	27%

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

Hurts	59%
Doesn't hurt	30%
Don't know	11%

Do you think the publishing of point spreads encourages gambling in college basketball, or not?

Yes	66%
No	25%

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

Yes	24%
No	64%