

SETON HALL SPORTS POLL FINDS SUPPORT FOR STUDENT/ATHLETE BENEFITS APART FROM SALARIES

Findings At Same Time as Yesterday's NLRB Ruling Re: Northwestern

S. Orange, NJ, March, 27, 2014 --- Americans show support for benefits to student/athletes apart from adding salaries to scholarships, according to a poll conducted this week by the Seton Hall Sports Poll.

While only 29% support the addition of salaries (vs. 66% opposing), the findings also showed that 45% said the athletes should receive **additional spending money**, (49% said no), that 36% said that athletes should receive **medical benefits** after they graduate, (57% said no), and that 42% said athletes should receive **free post-graduate education** at their university (49% said no).

The poll, conducted this week, comes at the same time as the ruling yesterday by the National Labor Relations Board in Chicago that Northwestern University football players were employees of the school, with a right to form a union and enter into collective bargaining.

While there is a trend toward salaries - those favoring a salary are up 4% from last year and 8% from 2007, when respondents were asked a similar question, the overwhelming majority favor the status quo.

The poll of 665 respondents (with a 3.9% margin of error), was based on random phone calls to landlines and cellphones across the U.S. between March 24-26.

"Given that there has not been much discussion of these issues, there appears to be the potential for public support for some increase in benefits over and above scholarships", noted veteran pollster Murray Edelman, Ph.D., a consultant to the Seton Hall Sports Poll, which is conducted by The Sharkey Institute.

RESPONDENTS FAVOR TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE BEFORE TURNING PRO

On the question of how many years a college basketball player must stay in school before being eligible for the NBA draft, 54% supported Commissioner Adam Silver's proposal to increase the minimum age for eligibility from 19 to 20 (in effect, two years), with 19% supporting one year, and 18% supporting no limits. 73% felt that requiring another year of school is a good thing for the student/athletes, even if they lose a year of a pro salary. (21% responded no).

"Commissioner Silver's proposal hits at a wide sentiment towards staying in school," said Edelman.

NCAA TOURNAMENT QUESTIONS

While half the respondents have watched coverage of this year's NCAA Basketball Tournament (49% yes, 51% no), only 14% filled out a set of brackets for the tournament, and only 7% said they participated in pools involving money.

52% prefer to watch a competitive game between two high seed teams, with 33% opting for an upset by a low seeded team over a highly seeded team.

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 March 24-26, 2014 among 665 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 land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus 3.9 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)** The new commissioner of the National Basketball Association wants to raise the minimum age for eligibility to the NBA draft from 19 to 20. In effect, this means players will have to finish two years in college instead of one year as it is now. Do you think they should leave the rule as it is now at one year, change to two years, or have no limits for when a player can be drafted?

1. One year	19%
2. Two years	54
3. No limits	18
4. Don't know/refuse to answer	10

- 2) Do you think requiring another year of school for student/athletes is a good thing for them even though they could lose a year of pro salary?

1. Yes	73
2. No	21
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	6

3) Currently, student/athletes who participate in revenue generating sports for their college can only receive scholarships. Do you think they should also receive: A salary?

1. Yes	29
2. No	66
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	6

4) Additional spending money?

1. Yes	45
2. No	49
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	6

5) Medical benefits after they graduate?

1. Yes	36
2. No	57
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	7

6) Free post-graduate education at their university?

1. Yes	42
2. No	49
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	9

7) In general, which do you enjoy more: a competitive game between two highly seeded teams or an upset of a highly seeded team by a low seeded one?

1. Competitive game between two high seeds	52
2. Upset	33
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	16

8) Have you watched any coverage of this year's NCAA Basketball Tournament?

1. Yes	49
2. No	51

9) Have you filled out a set of brackets for this year's Tournament?

- | | |
|--------|----|
| 1. Yes | 14 |
| 2. No | 86 |

10) Are you participating in any pools involving money for this year's Tournament?

- | | |
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| 1. Yes | 7 |
| 2. No | 93 |

11) How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Very closely | 21 |
| 2. Closely | 34 |
| 3. Not closely | 32 |
| 4. Not at all | 13 |