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The Sharkey Institute

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Seton Hall Sports Poll

BASEBALL WILL BE MOST FOLLOWED SPRING SPORTS EVENT ON AMERICA'S CALENDAR

MLB PACES STRONGLY WITH 18-29s

S. Orange, NJ, March 5, 2015 --- Americans will be paying attention to the start of the baseball season more than any other spring sports event, according to a poll conducted this week by the Seton Hall Sports Poll.

The randomly conducted poll, which includes calls to cellphones across the US, asked 751 people whether they were, or were not, paying attention to eight different events on the spring sports calendar. The Major League Baseball season received a 47% affirmative vote, which includes people who don't even follow sports.

Further good news for baseball was that among the coveted 18-29 age group, baseball is still on top, with a 40% approval rating, slightly ahead of the NFL Draft.

Other events included in the poll were the Men's NCAA basketball tournament, the NHL playoffs, the NBA playoffs, the Major League Soccer season, the NFL Draft, the Master's Golf Tournament, and the Women's Soccer World Cup.

The margin of error for the poll is 3.6%. The margin of error for the 18-29 category is 7.3%.

The results were:

	All respondents	Ages 18-29
MLB season	47	40
Men's NCAA basketball	38	27
NFL Draft	34	36
NBA Playoffs	32	32
Masters Golf	20	6
NHL Playoffs	18	16
MLS (soccer)	17	17
Women's World Cup	17	12

This is also the season in which MLB will put a number of actions in play to help speed

the pace of play, and among those who follow the game very closely, 51% are in favor of trying to speed up the game, with 43% for leaving it as it is. Overall, 33% are for speeding it up, 46% for leaving it as it is. Only 35% called for a pitch clock (which is not being adopted), with 46% saying “no” on the clock.

“Last year, the independent Atlantic League instituted a number of ‘pace of play’ changes and shaved seven minutes off their average 9-inning game time,” noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute. “I suspect MLB would be pleased with a similar result this year, and we expect to poll fans later in the season to measure their reaction once they have lived with it for a time.”

PUBLIC DIVIDED ON WHETHER A-ROD SUSPENSION SUFFICIENT; 64% ‘DON’T CARE’ IF TIGER PLAYS MASTERS

Meanwhile, Alex Rodriguez received a modest form of support from Americans, with 51% saying his one-year suspension was enough, and 49% saying it should have been longer - or life. When polled in September 2013, 72% wanted him banned for either 211 games (as originally asked for by MLB) or banned for life.

Asked if they would like to see Tiger Woods return to play in this year’s Masters, 64% said they did not care, with only 23% saying yes, and 13% saying no.

61% said it was appropriate for boxing to return to network television, as NBC is doing, with only 26% saying it was not.

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 March 2-4 among 751 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 3.5 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:

I will read you a list of sporting events coming up, tell me whether you will be paying attention to them or not?

1. The Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament
 1. Yes 38
 2. No 62
2. The National Hockey League Playoffs
 1. Yes 18
 2. No 82
3. The National Basketball Association Playoffs
 1. Yes 32
 2. No 68
4. The Major League Soccer season
 1. Yes 17
 2. No 83
5. The Major League Baseball season
 1. Yes 47
 2. No 53
6. The NFL draft
 1. Yes 34
 2. No 66
7. The Masters Golf tournament
 1. Yes 20
 2. No 80
8. The Women's Soccer World Cup
 1. Yes 17
 2. No 83
9. Recently, rules were put in place to speed up the pace of play in Major League Baseball. Do you think Major League Baseball should continue to try to speed up the game or leave the pace of the game as is?
 1. Speed up 33
 2. Leave as is 46
 3. Don't know 21

10. Do you think a pitch clock should be put in effect limiting the amount of time a pitcher can wait before delivering the next pitch?

- | | |
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| 1. Yes | 35 |
| 2. No | 44 |
| 3. Don't know | 22 |

11. Tiger Woods is recovering from back surgery and has only played in two tournaments so far this season, missing the cut in one and withdrawing with an injury in the other. Would you like to see him play in next month's Masters Tournament, rather he didn't play or do you not care?

- | | |
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| 1. See him play | 23 |
| 2. Not see him play | 13 |
| 3. Don't care | 64 |

12. Alex Rodriguez is participating in spring training with the New York Yankees after being suspended for a year for using performance enhancing drugs. Do you think that:

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. The one year suspension was enough | 51 |
| 2. It should have been longer than 1 year | 22 |
| 3. He should have been banned for life | 27 |

13. NBC has announced it is going to be presenting professional boxing on the network next Saturday night. Do you think it is appropriate that boxing be shown in prime time on network television?

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| 1. Yes | 61 |
| 2. No | 26 |
| 3. Don't know | 14 |

14. How closely would you say you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?

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|-----------------|----|
| 1. Very closely | 19 |
| 2. Closely | 29 |
| 3. Not closely | 36 |
| 4. Not at all | 16 |