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OF BUSINESS  
*The Sharkey Institute*

**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY**

*Seton Hall Sports Poll*

**48% OF AMERICANS THINK BASEBALL STILL HAS  
A WIDESPREAD DRUG PROBLEM**

**But Disapproval Ratings Dropping for Bonds, Clemens, A-Rod,  
Woods, James; An Era of Forgiveness Emerging?**

**60% of Public Say Drop Legal Pursuit of Bonds**

S. Orange, NJ, April 30, 2015 --- Nearly half of the USA - 48% - think that Major League Baseball still has a widespread drug problem, according to a Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week. 32% thought that the three suspensions issued this season (80 games each) for players testing positive for performance enhancing drugs were isolated cases.

The poll of 705 randomly called Americans (on both landlines and cellphones), has a margin of error of 3.7%.

The poll also shows that brighter days may be coming for those who have been under cloudy public opinion. The poll found that Barry Bonds's disapproval rating among Americans has dropped from 53% in 2009 to 34% in 2010 and 29% today. (His approval rating has gone from 22% in 2009 to 23% in 2010 to 28% today).

The public also seems ready to move on from the legal pursuit of Bonds. With federal prosecutors reportedly seeking to have the overturning of his conviction on obstruction of justice charges reviewed by the Supreme Court, 60% of respondents said the government should not continue to press the case against him, with only 24% saying it should be pursued.

On the question of whether Bonds should be elected to the Hall of Fame, his improving popularity has also affected public sentiment, with 28% saying he should not, compared to 45% in 2009. In the same period, Roger Clemens went from 36% saying no (in 2009) to only 16% saying no today.

Pete Rose has 48% of the country saying he deserves Hall of Fame inclusion, a virtual dead heat with Ken Griffey Jr., considered a certain first-ballot selection with no controversy attached to his name.

The poll also showed a comeback in popularity for Tiger Woods (21% disapproval, down from 40% in 2010), Alex Rodriguez (24% disapprove, down from 41% in 2010), and

LeBron James (6% disapprove, down from 16% in 2010).

	2015		2010	
	Approve	Disapprove.	Approve	Disapprove
Bonds	28	29	23	34
Woods	45	21	39	40
Rodriguez	24	24	16	41
James	57	6	40	16
Tebow	45	9		
Spieth	31	3		
Calipari	17	9		
Krzyzewski	31	4		
Posey	26	4		
Brady	59	7		

The poll asked approval and disapproval ratings on a number of sports stars, including the San Francisco Giants' Buster Posey, who has been the catcher for three world championships in the last five years. Only 26% gave approval to his name; only 4% disapproval, and 70% had don't know or no opinion as an answer.

"This accentuates the belief that Major League Baseball is becoming more and more a highly popular local sport, without developing strong national fan bases for its stars," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is sponsored by The Sharkey Institute.

In an unrelated question, with the approach of the NBA Draft, people were asked whether the age limit for turning pro should be changed. 46% said the age limit should be raised to 20, and 23% said things should be left the way they are (age 19). When asked this question in March, 2014, 43% wanted to raise the limit to 20, with only 19% saying leave as is.

### ***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](http://www.shu.edu).

**About the poll:**

This poll was conducted by telephone April 27-29 among 705 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 3.7 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. In the first few weeks of this baseball season, three players were suspended for 80 games for testing positive for performance enhancing drugs. Do you think this is indicative of a widespread drug problem in baseball or do you think these are just isolated cases?
  1. Widespread problem 48%
  2. Isolated cases 32
  3. Don't know 20
  
2. Barry Bonds had his conviction for obstruction of justice overturned last week after the government spent a reported 55 million dollars trying to convict him of perjury regarding his testimony about his use of performance enhancing drugs. Do you think the government should continue to pursue the case against him?
  1. Yes 24
  2. No 60
  3. Don't know 16

**I'm going to ask you if these players deserve to be elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. Tell me if you think they should, should not or if you have no opinion?**

3. Roger Clemens
  1. Should 41
  2. Shouldn't 16
  3. No opinion 43
  
4. Derek Jeter
  1. Should 57
  2. Shouldn't 9

3. No opinion	34
5. Barry Bonds	
1. Should	36
2. Shouldn't	28
3. No opinion	35
6. Mike Piazza	
1. Should	32
2. Shouldn't	11
3. No opinion	58
7. Pete Rose	
1. Should	48
2. Shouldn't	15
3. No Opinion	37
8. Ken Griffey, Jr.	
1. Should	49
2. Shouldn't	5
3. No opinion	47
9. As the NBA draft approaches, Commissioner Adam Silver has gone on record as saying he'd like the age limit for entry to go from 19 to 20. If the age for draft eligibility is raised, players would be required to play at least 2 years in college before turning pro. Do you think the age limit should be raised from 19 to 20, things should stay the way they are or there should be no age limit at all?	
1. Raise limit to 20	46
2. Leave the way things are	23
3. No age limit	19
4. Don't know	12
10. How interested are you in the upcoming championship boxing match between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao, very interested, somewhat interested or not interested?	
1. Very interested	20
2. Somewhat interested	24
3. Not interested	55

**Now I'm going to ask for your opinion of several people. Please tell me if you approve, disapprove or have no opinion:**

11. Alex Rodriguez	
1. Approve	24

2. Disapprove	24
3. Don't know/No opinion	53
12. Tim Tebow	
1. Approve	45
2. Disapprove	9
3. Don't know/No opinion	46
13. Tiger Woods	
1. Approve	45
2. Disapprove	21
3. Don't know/No opinion	34
14. Jordan Spieth	
1. Approve	31
2. Disapprove	3
3. Don't know/No opinion	66
15. John Calipari	
1. Approve	17
2. Disapprove	9
3. Don't know/No opinion	74
16. Barry Bonds	
1. Approve	28
2. Disapprove	29
3. Don't know/No opinion	43
17. Mike Krzyzewski	
1. Approve	31
2. Disapprove	4
3. Don't know/No opinion	65
18. LeBron James	
1. Approve	57
2. Disapprove	6
3. Don't know/No opinion	37
19. Buster Posey	
1. Approve	26
2. Disapprove	4
3. Don't know/No opinion	70
20. Tom Brady	
1. Approve	59

- 2. Disapprove 7
- 3. Don't know/No opinion 34

21. How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, not closely or not at all?

- 1. Very closely 19
- 2. Closely 36
- 3. Not closely 30
- 4. Not at all 15