



STILLMAN SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS
The Sharkey Institute

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Seton Hall Sports Poll

Seton Hall Sports Poll Examines Football Concussion Issue

**LARGE MARGIN FAVORS NFL, NOT GOVERNMENT
TAKING ACTION ON CONCUSSIONS**

***Women Reporters in NFL Locker Rooms;
Players As Role Models Also Surveyed***

S. Orange, NJ, September 30, 2010 – By a large margin, Americans feel that something needs to be done by the NFL – but not by the Federal government - to deal with concussions suffered by its players, according to a poll conducted this week by the Seton Hall Sports Poll.

Fifty-four percent felt that the NFL needed to take action, while only 32% said concussions are “part of the game.” An even greater majority – 74% to 15%, felt that the NFL should have rules in place mandating the amount of recovery time following a concussion. On the non-professional level, 71% felt that high school and college organizations needed to take greater precautions.

Congress is considering a bill mandating that local school districts take measures in this area, but 56% of respondents said the government should not be involved in the process.

“This seems to be in keeping with the public’s current view that the government should not be taking on additional responsibilities,” noted Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll, conducted by The Sharkey Institute.

The poll was conducted earlier this week among 1,026 randomly called adults 18 and over throughout the United States, with a margin of error due to sampling of 3% for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error. .

59% of Women Say “No Women Reporters in Locker Rooms”

Meanwhile, 32 years after a Federal Court in *Ludtke v. Kuhn* ruled that women could have equal access to locker rooms, 59% of women (and 47% of men) say that female reporters should not be allowed to enter an NFL locker room, with only 34% of total respondents saying all reporters should be banned.

" It is unusual to find women more than men in favor of limiting a woman's right, in this case a reporter in a men's locker room," said Gentile. "Perhaps women find this more

personally unsettling.” In this case, the issue re-emerged after the crude behavior directed towards Ines Sainz, a reporter for the Mexican network *TV Azteca* in the locker room of the New York Jets.

72% of 18-29 Year Olds Think Athletes Serve As Good Role Models

Overall, 53% thought that athletes served as good role models for young people, while 32% thought they didn't. However, the 18-29 year olds were much more positive, with 72% agreeing and 17% disagreeing.

As to whether misbehavior detracts, enhances, or makes no difference in enjoyment of a game, 56% of all respondents felt it detracted, but the number fell to just 33% among 18-29. On the question of whether enough is being done by leagues to eliminate off field misbehavior by its athletes, only 26% said “yes,” but the number went to 41% for those 18-29.

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.

*Contact: Marty Appel Public Relations 212 245-1772
Rick Gentile 917 881-9489*

1. How closely do you follow sports; very closely, closely, somewhat closely, or not at all?

1 – Very closely	21%
2 – Closely	17
3 – Somewhat closely	35
4 – Not at all	27

2. Do you think athletes serve as good role models for young people?

1 – Yes	53
2 – No	32
3 – Don't know	14

3. Recently a female reporter was subjected to some crude behavior in an NFL (National Football League) locker room. Do you think the players who participated in this behavior should have been disciplined by the NFL?

1 – Yes	59
2 – No	26
3 – Don't know	15

4. Do you think female reporters should be allowed to enter an NFL locker room?

1 – Yes	39
2 – No	53
3 – Don't know	8

5. Do you think all reporters should be banned from entering locker rooms?

1 – Yes	34
2 – No	58
3 – Don't know	8

6. Is the problem of concussions in the NFL so serious that something needs to be done about it, or does nothing need to be done because concussions are just part of the game?

1 – Something needs to be done	54
2 – Part of the game	32
3 – Don't know	14

7. Do you think the NFL should have rules in place that players are given a mandated amount of time to recover after they have suffered a concussion?

1 – Yes	74
2 – No	15
3 – Don't know	11

8. Do you think greater precautions should be taken by high school and college football organizations to limit the number of concussions by athletes, or is enough being done?

1 – Greater precautions	71
2 – Enough being done	14
3 – Don't know	15

9. The U.S. Congress is considering a bill mandating that local school districts take measures to limit concussions and provide support for student athletes who have suffered a concussion. Do you think the federal government should be involved in this process?

1 – Yes	34
2 – No	56

3 – Don't know 11

10. Does misbehavior by athletes off the field enhance your enjoyment of sports, detract from it, or does it make no difference?

1 – Enhance your enjoyment 4
2 – Detract from your enjoyment 56
3 – Makes no difference 31
4 – Don't know 9

11. Do you think enough is being done by professional leagues to eliminate off field misbehavior by athletes?

1 – Yes 26
2 – No 54
3 – Don't know 19

12. Do you think enough is being done by college athletic administrators to eliminate off field misbehavior by athletes?

1 – Yes 29
2 – No 50
3 – Don't know 22