

LET MY SON PLAY FOOTBALL? PRESIDENT LOSES THIS ONE AS MOST SAY 'YES'

AMERICA HEARS ARMSTRONG AND REJECTS HIM

S. Orange, NJ, January 31, 2013 --- While President Obama recently said that "if I had a son, I'd have to think long and hard" about his playing football, 67% of Americans show no such hesitancy, saying they would let that son play. Only 21% mirrored the "long and hard" response while a mere 9% said they would not let a son play, according to a poll conducted this week by the Seton Hall Sports Poll.

The poll was conducted this week through random dialing across the country (including cell phones), of 894 people, representing a margin of error of +/- 3.3%. Seton Hall University conducts the only regularly run university-based sports poll in the US.

The poll found 60% feeling that it was appropriate for the president to comment on the violence in college and pro football, with 33% feeling it was not his place to offer such comment.

"Despite the President's position and despite the almost daily coverage of the concussion dangers presented by the sport, football is America's favorite sport and parents want to continue the tradition," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by the Sharkey Institute.

The poll also found that the Super Bowl ranked third in terms of public attention this week, with the gun control debate named by 51% as "following most closely", with 22% citing the federal budget debate, and 14% citing the game.

Fans rooting interest in the game gave a slight edge to the 49ers, 26%-21%, with 53% citing no rooting interest, and only 18% able to say which Harbaugh brother was coaching which team. (John coaches Baltimore; Jim coaches San Francisco).

ARMSTRONG'S OPRAH CONFESSION TURNS FAVORABLE RATING OF HIM WORSE

Meanwhile, if Lance Armstrong felt that a confession to doping to Oprah Winfrey would help restore his public standing, he bet incorrectly. Since his admission, public opinion of Armstrong has improved for only 2% of respondents, while for 35%, it got worse. For 46%, it remained the same.

In October, after Armstrong chose silence in response to the stripping of his Tour de France titles, a Seton Hall Sports Poll showed that 37% still had a favorable rating of him, with only 34% registered as unfavorable. Asked this week, only 14% had a favorable rating, with the unfavorable having grown to 40%.

34% felt he was not completely truthful with Ms. Winfrey, while only 27% felt he told her

the truth. 53% felt his appearance with her was a desperate attempt to retain some market value in his name.

“With his confession, and after all the years of denial, it looks like the American public is ready to write off Lance Armstrong at last,” added Gentile.

AND AS FOR MANTI TE’O....

65% felt that too much attention was being given to the Manti Te’o “Internet Girlfriend Hoax,” with only 10% of respondents feeling there was an appropriate amount of coverage for the story. Respondents were almost evenly divided on how they felt about Te’o’s role in the hoax, as 25% felt he was an innocent victim, and 23% felt he was “in on it,” with 52% having no opinion.

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 from January 28-30, 2013 among 894 adults nationwide.

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 3.3 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. Which story would you say you are following most closely, the gun control debate, the Super Bowl, the budget debate in congress, the Lance Armstrong confession, or the Manti Te'o hoax?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Gun control | 51% |
| 2. Super Bowl | 14 |
| 3. Budget debate | 22 |
| 4. Lance Armstrong confession | 2 |
| 5. Manti Te'o hoax | 2 |
| 6. None of the above | 8 |

2. Do you plan to watch the Super Bowl this coming Sunday?

- | | |
|--------|----|
| 1. Yes | 64 |
| 2. No | 33 |

3. What team will you be rooting for to win the Super Bowl?

- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 1. 49ers | 26 |
| 2. Ravens | 21 |
| 3. Neither/Don't know | 53 |

4. Do you happen to know who the coach of the Baltimore Ravens is?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Jim Harbaugh | 6 |
| 2. John Harbaugh | 18 |
| 3. Other | 3 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 74 |

5. Do you happen to know who the coach of the San Francisco 49ers is?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Jim Harbaugh | 18 |
| 2. John Harbaugh | 6 |
| 3. Other | 3 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 73 |

6. President Obama said recently that if he had a son who wanted to play football he'd have to think long and hard about it. If you had a son who wanted to play football would you:

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Let him | 67 |
| 2. Not let him | 9 |

3. Have to think long and hard about it 21
 4. Don't know/refuse to answer 3
7. Do you think it's appropriate for the president to comment on the violence in college or professional football?
 1. Yes 60
 2. No 33
 3. Don't know/refuse to answer 7
 8. How closely do you follow sports, very closely, closely, somewhat closely or not at all?
 1. Very closely 16
 2. Closely 16
 3. Somewhat closely 43
 4. Not at all 25
 9. Had you heard the name Manti Te'o prior to hearing about the hoax regarding his alleged girlfriend?
 1. Yes 41
 2. No 54
 3. Don't know/refuse to answer 5
 10. Do you think the story of the Manti Te'o hoax is receiving too much attention, the appropriate amount of attention or not enough attention?
 1. Too much 65
 2. Appropriate 10
 3. Not enough 4
 4. Don't know/refuse to answer 21
 11. Do you think Te'o was in on the hoax or was he an innocent victim of it?
 1. In on it 23
 2. Innocent victim 25
 3. Don't know/refuse to answer 52
 12. Is your opinion of Lance Armstrong favorable, unfavorable or do you have no opinion?
 1. Favorable 14

- 2. Unfavorable 40
- 3. No opinion 46

13. Has your opinion of Lance Armstrong improved, gotten worse or remained the same since he admitted to using performance enhancing drugs to help him win the Tour de France seven times?

- 1. Improved 2
- 2. Gotten worse 35
- 3. Remained the same 46
- 4. Don't know/refuse to answer 17

14. Which of the following allegations has most negatively influenced your opinion of Lance Armstrong?

- 1. He pressured teammates to take drugs 17
- 2. He took drugs himself 7
- 3. He denied cheating for so long 43
- 4. None of the above 14
- 5. Don't know/refuse to answer 20

15. Do you think Lance Armstrong told the truth in his interview with Oprah Winfrey regarding his use of performance enhancing drugs during his cycling career?

- 1. Told the truth 27
- 2. Not completely truthful 34
- 3. Don't know/refuse to answer 39

16. Do you think that Lance Armstrong's confession was an honest attempt to clean the slate or was it a desperate attempt to retain some market value in his name?

- 1. Clean the slate 18
- 2. Retain market value 53
- 3. Neither 3
- 4. Don't know/refuse to answer 26