

Seton Hall Sports Poll

AMERICAN PUBLIC NOT READY TO VILLANIZE LANCE ARMSTRONG

S. Orange, NJ, October 25, 2012 – Despite a barrage of negative stories surrounding Lance Armstrong in recent weeks, a Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week, found that half the public hasn't changed their view of the cyclist/Livestrong founder.

Nearly half of the total sampling - 49% - said their opinion has not changed because of the recent allegations. And despite revelations of Armstrong pressuring his teammates to cover for him, when asked if that led to negatively influencing opinion, only 16% cited that as the leading factor, with 28% saying it was because he denied cheating for so long. 13% said they were influenced by his taking of performance enhancing drugs.

37% said they had a positive opinion of him, with 36% saying negative. 27% had no opinion or didn't know. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.4%.

Among younger respondents - those 18-29 - the positive opinion was 4-1 over the negative.

"It's a complicated story; it's not just another athlete cheating," noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by the Sharkey Institute. "We were surprised by this result given the almost daily pounding of his reputation but he overcame cancer, raised millions for cancer research, and became an American hero. It is likely the public hasn't forgotten that."

Only 49% thought his Tour de France titles should have been taken away.

The poll was conducted among 878 randomly selected people across the country, including people on cell phones.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OUTPACES SPORTS FOR 'FIERCEST COMPETITION' WORLD SERIES RATES LOW IN EVENT FANS WOULD MOST WANT TO ATTEND

The poll also asked which event will offer the fiercest competition, and the presidential election with 69% easily outpaced both the Super Bowl (19%) and the World Series (8%). Asked which sporting event they would most want to attend, 31% said the Super Bowl and 29% said the Olympics. The World Series was a distant third at 11%, tying the World Cup and the Final Four.

"The World Series was once so entrenched in America's minds that it was said that the presidential campaigns didn't get serious until it was over," added Gentile. "It's hard to overlook the low scores the World Series recorded in this poll, especially since the poll was conducted in the week of the Series opening."

YANKS COLLAPSE BLAMED ON 'OVERPAID, OVERRATED'

Respondents thought the Yankees failure to advance to the World Series was largely due to their being "overpaid and overrated" (32%), with the team's offensive collapse (17%) cited three times more often than singling out Alex Rodriguez's ineffectiveness for blame (5%). 9% named Derek Jeter's breaking his ankle.

53% THINK LEGALIZED SPORTS GAMBLING DAMAGES INTEGRITY OF SPORTS

With several major sports organizations suing the state of New Jersey to block legalized gambling on sporting events, the poll asked if such gambling damages the integrity of sports, and by a margin of 53% - 40%, respondents said "yes."

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The results:

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MLB POSTSEASON POLL - OCT. 22-24, 2012

1. Which event do you think will be the fiercest competition, the World Series, the next Super Bowl or the Presidential Election?

1. World Series	8
2. Super Bowl	19
3. Presidential Election	69
4. Don't know/refuse to answer	4

2. Which sporting event would you rather attend, the World Series, the Super Bowl, the Olympics, soccer's World Cup or the Final Four?

1. World Series	11
2. Super Bowl	31
3. Olympics	29
4. World Cup	11
5. Final Four	11
6. None	6
7. Don't know/refuse to answer	2

3. Several major sports organizations are suing the state of New Jersey to block legalized gambling on sporting events. Do you think legalized sports gambling damages the integrity of sports?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 53 |
| 2. No | 40 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 7 |
4. Do you think the NFL is doing enough to protect its players from concussions and head injuries?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 44 |
| 2. No | 39 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 17 |
5. Do you think enough is being done for football player safety once a concussion or head injury has been diagnosed?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 39 |
| 2. No | 35 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 27 |
6. Do you have a positive or negative opinion of Lance Armstrong?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Positive | 37 |
| 2. Negative | 36 |
| 3. No opinion | 22 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 5 |
7. Has your opinion of Lance Armstrong changed because of recent allegations?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 39 |
| 2. No | 49 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 12 |
8. Which of the following allegations has most negatively influenced your opinion of Lance Armstrong?
- (READ CHOICES)**
- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. He pressured teammates to take performance enhancing drugs | 16 |
| 2. He took performance enhancing drugs himself | 13 |
| 3. He denied cheating for so long | 28 |
| 4. None of the above | 25 |
| 5. Don't know/refuse to answer | 17 |

9. This week the International Cycling Federation stripped Armstrong of his seven Tour de France titles. Do you think the titles should have been taken away?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 49 |
| 2. No | 35 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 16 |

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

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1. Very closely | 23 |
| 2. Closely | 29 |
| 3. Somewhat closely | 37 |
| 4. Not at all | 12 |

11. What do you think is the main reason the Yankees didn't advance to the World Series?

(READ CHOICES)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Derek Jeter breaking his ankle | 9 |
| 2. Alex Rodriguez' ineffectiveness | 5 |
| 3. The team's offensive collapse | 17 |
| 4. They're overpaid and overrated | 32 |
| 5. Don't know/refuse to answer | 37 |

12. Do you think an instant replay review process similar to the one used by the NFL should be instituted in baseball?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 67 |
| 2. No | 20 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 13 |

13. Will the National Hockey League labor dispute make you less interested in following hockey, more interested or will your interest remain the same when play resumes?

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Less interested | 12 |
| 2. More interested | 2 |

3. Remain the same	71
4. Don't know/refuse to answer	15