

### **Seton Hall Sports Poll**

#### **NEARLY HALF OF AMERICANS BELIEVE PENN STATE SCANDAL NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS**

S. Orange, NJ, December 1, 2011 – A survey of Americans taken by the Seton Hall Sports Poll this week shows that nearly half – 48% - believe the reports of alleged abuse at Penn State indicate a bigger problem in college athletics, more than it being just an isolated incident. 64% said universities should do more (as opposed to just 19% saying they are doing enough).

41% thought the NCAA should involve itself in the Penn State situation, with 42% saying they should not.

Although 40% indicated they didn't know enough about what Penn State was doing, a good development for the school is that only 13% think the college is not doing enough to investigate and correct the situation as opposed to 47% feeling they are doing enough.

The poll was conducted among 942 randomly dialed people across the country with a margin of error of 3%.

“That’s a remarkably high percentage calling for NCAA involvement,” noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by the Sharkey Institute. “Usually, when we ask about NCAA or other ‘outside’ involvement, people give that a resounding thumbs down. This is a very high number supporting their involvement.”

55% thought Penn State did the right thing in dismissing Joe Paterno as head coach immediately, with only 31% feeling they should have accepted his offer to resign. 80% agreed that it was right for the team to finish its season. 53% felt Penn State bears responsibility for having allowed the alleged abuse to take place on its premises.

#### **LINGERING EFFECTS OF LABOR DISPUTE ON NBA POLLED**

Among 704 who identified themselves as sports fans, a huge 85% followed the Penn State story, while only 52% said they followed the NBA labor story. (There is a 4% margin of error for this group).

A third of the sports fans – 33% - said they had a lowered opinion of professional basketball, and would be following the NBA less closely.

“That will improve; it usually does,” said Gentile. “But it’s a strong statement of discontent at this time. Disenfranchising a third of your fan base is a serious problem if the league doesn’t win them back.”

54% thought both sides bore responsibility for the dispute, with 12% saying owners and 12% players.

Asked if they followed college basketball or the NBA more closely, 44% said college basketball to 29% for the NBA.

“That should be a lingering concern for the NBA,” added Gentile.

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

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### **The poll results:**

1. How closely have you been following the reports of alleged sexual abuse of children by a former assistant football coach at Penn State University?

1. Very closely	17
2. Closely	20
3. Somewhat closely	42
4. Not at all	22

2. Do you think Penn State is responsible for having allowed the alleged abuse to take place on its premises?

1. Yes	53
2. No	27
3. Don't know	20

3. Joe Paterno, the head coach at the time of the alleged abuse, offered his resignation effective at the end of this football season. Instead, the University chose to dismiss him immediately. Do you think Penn State should have dismissed Paterno or accepted his offer to resign at the end of the season?

1. Dismissed Paterno immediately	55
2. Accepted his offer to resign	31

- |                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 15 |
|--------------------------------|----|
4. In light of the reports of alleged abuse, do you think it was appropriate for Penn State to complete the remainder of its football season or should the rest of the season have been cancelled?
- |                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. Complete season | 80 |
| 2. Cancel season   | 9  |
| 3. Don't know      | 11 |
5. Do the reports of alleged abuse at Penn State indicate there could be a bigger problem regarding college athletics or was it an isolated situation?
- |                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Bigger problem              | 48 |
| 2. Isolated situation          | 34 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 17 |
6. In general, do you think universities are doing enough to monitor their athletic departments or should they be doing more?
- |                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1. Universities are doing enough | 19 |
| 2. Universities should do more   | 64 |
| 3. Don't know                    | 17 |
7. Do you think Penn State is now doing enough to investigate and correct the situation?
- |                |    |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Yes         | 47 |
| 2. No          | 13 |
| 3. Don't know/ | 40 |
8. Do you think the NCAA should involve itself in the situation at Penn State?
- |                |    |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Yes         | 41 |
| 2. No          | 42 |
| 3. Don't know/ | 16 |
9. How closely do you follow sports?
- |                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Very closely | 23 |
| 2. Closely      | 19 |

3. Somewhat closely	33
4. Not at all	25

10. How closely were you following the NBA labor dispute?

1. Very closely	9
2. Closely	14
3. Somewhat closely	30
4. Not at all	47

11. Which side do you think was most responsible for the dispute, the owners, the players or both?

1. Owners	12
2. Players	12
3. Both	54
4. Don't know	12

12. Has the NBA labor dispute raised or lowered your opinion of professional basketball and the people involved in it, or has it not made a difference?

1. Raised opinion	2
2. Lowered opinion	33
3. No difference	54
4. Don't know/	15

13. When play resumes will you follow the NBA as closely as before, more closely or less closely?

1. As closely	47
2. More closely	5
3. Less closely	33
4. Don't know/	15

14. Which do you follow more closely, the NBA or college basketball?

1. NBA	29
2. College basketball	44
3. Neither	18
4. Don't know/	9

