

## **SETON HALL SPORTS POLL MEASURES PUBLIC REACTION TO NFL OFFICIATING FIASCO**

### ***HUGE JUMP AFTER MONDAY NIGHT GAME***

#### **“Speculation can now be quantified”**

S. Orange, NJ, September 27, 2012 – If the Packers-Seahawks game Monday night led to assumptions by interested parties that the time had arrived for a settlement with NFL officials - a Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted this week adds quantifying numbers to the assumption.

Because the polling was done Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, it was possible to measure the dramatic change that the Monday night game brought.

688 randomly selected people across the country were asked if they thought the quality of NFL games suffered as a result of the league using replacement officials, and 54% said it did.

While 41% responded, “yes it had suffered” on Monday, after the game it went to 65%. (The margin of error for the jump of 24% from Monday to the other days combined is 7.9%).

For the nearly half of respondents who “didn’t know” (or had no answer), the game was a quick decision-maker as well. From 47% “undecided” on Monday, the number fell to just 26% on Tuesday and Wednesday.

“The impact of that one moment in that one game can’t be overstated,” said Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by the Sharkey Institute. “It was a defining moment. What was speculated can now be quantified. The NFL felt the shift in mood of its public. Everyone felt it; the game changed the mood of the American public, and these are the numbers that prove it.”

#### **About the Methodology**

The poll was conducted by telephone among a random digit dial sample of adults ages 18 and older living in the continental United States and supplemented with a sample of people of cell phone users. The poll of 688 respondents was sponsored by Seton Hall University. The margin of error due to sampling is +/- 3.8 percentage points for most estimates. Other factors also may affect the total error.

#### **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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Polling data:

Has the quality of NFL games suffered as a result of the league using replacement officials due to a labor dispute with the regular officials?

	Monday	Tue/Wed	Total
Yes	41	65	54
No	12	9	11
Don't Know	47	26	35