

Seton Hall Sports Poll

PUBLIC SAYS OBAMA A BETTER SPORTSMAN, WOULD BE A BETTER FOOTBALL COACH THAN ROMNEY

Independent Voters Also Favor President on Both Questions

S. Orange, NJ, September 28, 2012 – President Obama is seen as showing better sportsmanship than his opponent Mitt Romney, according to a poll conducted this week by the Seton Hall Sports Poll.

Asked “regardless of whom you support, which candidate do you think shows better sportsmanship,” 53% said Obama, 29% said Romney, and 18% had no opinion. And while partisan politics may have affected that reading, the results from respondents who identified themselves as independent may be more telling: 58% said Obama showed better sportsmanship, 28% Romney, and 14% had no opinion.

The poll was conducted among 688 randomly selected people across the country, including people on cell phones, of whom 487 said they followed sports at least somewhat. The poll has a margin of error of 3.8%; 4.5% for sports fans.

The poll also found that to the question “which candidate do you think would make a better football coach,” Obama drew 48% to Romney’s 30%, and a wider margin among independents, 52% - 31%. Asked which party has more of the “win at all costs” attitude commonly associated with sports, 43% said Republicans, 36% Democrats, and among independents it was 48% to 38% for the Republicans. (The margin of error for independent voters was 5.9%).

“One might expect partisan responses to these questions, so the results among independents is especially telling,” noted Rick Gentile, director of the poll, which is conducted by the Sharkey Institute. “In sports terms, it comes out very well for the likeability of the Democratic Party and the President.”

50% of all respondents said they were following the election over the NFL (17%), the pennant races in baseball (9%), college football (8%) and NASCAR (3%).

On a “mean and nasty” level, respondents saw presidential politics as having more of that (38%) than the news media (20%), big business (17%), entertainment (7%) or pro sports (6%).

“That’s a very good showing for the sportsmanship evident in professional sports,” added Gentile.

RATING THE QUARTERBACKS FOR FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS

The poll took a select number of high profile NFL quarterbacks and came up with favorability ratings as seen by the public. Peyton Manning had a slight lead over his

brother Eli, with 62% favorable (and only 3% unfavorable), while Eli (59%, and 5% unfavorable) was within the margin of error. The rankings based on favorability:

	Favorable	Unfavorable
Payton Manning	62%	3%
Eli Manning	59	5
Drew Brees	47	7
Tim Tebow	47	15
Aaron Rogers	40	6
Tony Romo	28	21
Robert Griffin III	26	5
Andrew Luck	26	6
Cam Newton	26	8
Ben Roethlisberger	26	22
Michael Vick	24	32

About Seton Hall University

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POLL RESULTS:

1. What are you following more closely, Major League Baseball's pennant races, the NFL, college football, NASCAR or the presidential election?

1. Pennant races	9
2. NFL	17
3. College football	8
4. NASCAR	3
5. Election	50
6. Don't know/refuse to answer	13

2. Regardless of whom you support, which candidate do you think would make a better football coach, Mitt Romney or Barack Obama?

1. Romney	30
2. Obama	48
3. Don't know/refuse to answer	22

3. Regardless of whom you support, which candidate do you think shows better sportsmanship, Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Obama | 53 |
| 2. Romney | 29 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 18 |

4. In which of these areas do you think the competition and rivalries among people at the top are nastiest and meanest, big business, the entertainment world, the news media, Presidential politics, or professional sports?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Big business | 17 |
| 2. Entertainment | 7 |
| 3. News media | 20 |
| 4. Presidential politics | 38 |
| 5. Professional sports | 6 |
| 6. Don't know/refuse to answer | 13 |

5. Which party has more of the "win at all costs" attitude that we most commonly associate with sports, the Republicans or the Democrats?

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|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Republicans | 43 |
| 2. Democrats | 36 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 21 |

6. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, or an Independent?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Democrat | 25 |
| 2. Republican | 21 |
| 3. Independent | 41 |
| 4. Don't know/refuse to answer | 13 |

7. Penn State University has had over a dozen football players leave the program since the NCAA issued its sanctions resulting from the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse scandal. Do you think the NCAA treated the football program too harshly?

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|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Yes | 30 |
| 2. No | 50 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 20 |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. Very closely | 20 |
| 2. Closely | 12 |
| 3. Somewhat closely | 44 |
| 4. Not at all | 24 |
| 5. Don't know/refuse to answer | |

9. 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? *(This was covered in a release yesterday; contact us for a re-issue).*

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| 1. Yes | 54 |
| 2. No | 11 |
| 3. Don't know/refuse to answer | 36 |

10. How much do you care that the National Hockey League has locked out its players in a labor dispute, a lot, some, not much, not at all?

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|--------------------------------|----|
| 1. A lot | 10 |
| 2. Some | 14 |
| 3. Not much | 18 |
| 4. Not at all | 36 |
| 5. Don't know/refuse to answer | 22 |

11. Peyton Manning?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Favorable | 62 |
| 2. Unfavorable | 3 |
| 3. No opinion | 34 |

12. Tim Tebow?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Favorable | 47 |
| 2. Unfavorable | 15 |
| 3. No opinion | 39 |

13. Robert Griffin III?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| 1. Favorable | 26 |
| 2. Unfavorable | 5 |

3. No opinion	69
14. Drew Brees?	
1. Favorable	47
2. Unfavorable	7
3. No opinion	46
15. Eli Manning?	
1. Favorable	59
2. Unfavorable	5
3. No opinion	36
16. Cam Newton?	
1. Favorable	26
2. Unfavorable	8
3. No opinion	66
17. Ben Roethlisberger?	
1. Favorable	26
2. Unfavorable	22
3. No opinion	53
18. Michael Vick?	
1. Favorable	24
2. Unfavorable	32
3. No opinion	45
19. Andrew Luck?	
1. Favorable	26
2. Unfavorable	6
3. No opinion	69
20. Aaron Rodgers?	
1. Favorable	40
2. Unfavorable	6
3. No opinion	55

21. Tony Romo?

1. Favorable	28
2. Unfavorable	21
3. No opinion	51