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Siena New York Sports Poll

NY'ers Rank Yankees as Favorite Team; Giants 2nd, Mets 3rd

43% to 33%, NY Voters Support Legalizing Mixed Martial Arts

Most Predict Successful Season for Jeter, Rivera; 56% Expect Yanks to Make Playoffs

Loudonville, NY – The New York Yankees continue to be New York State's favorite sports team as 45 percent of residents rate the Yankees as either their first or second favorite team compared to 29 percent citing the New York Giants and 22 percent naming the New York Mets according to a new poll of New Yorkers released today by the Siena College Research Institute (SRI). A ten-point plurality (43% to 33%) of registered voters support the legalization of mixed martial arts, known as MMA.

Sixty-three percent of New Yorkers think Derek Jeter will have at least a somewhat (37%) or very successful (26%) season while 61 percent (28% very, 33% somewhat) expect his teammate, Mariano Rivera to enjoy success this season. Fifty-six percent of all New Yorkers and 69 percent of Yankee fans expect the Bronx Bombers to make the playoffs this season.

“Support for MMA has grown in New York since our last poll nearly a year ago,” said SRI's Director, Dr. Don Levy. “Last May a small plurality, thirty-two percent to twenty-six percent supported mixed martial arts while over forty percent either needed more information or simply didn't have an opinion. Today among registered voters support is up and supporters now lead opponents by ten points as more New Yorkers are making up their mind. MMA has plurality support in every region, is strongly endorsed by young people and has majority support among men and sports fans. Older New Yorkers tend to oppose legalization while it is a toss-up among women and those that say they are not sports fans.”

Fifty-eight percent of New Yorkers continue to describe themselves as sports fans. Seventy-three percent of men and 44 percent of women call themselves fans. Whether they call themselves sports fans or not, nearly half, 45 percent say the Yankees are either their first or second team, 29 percent root for the Giants, 22 percent for the Mets, and 17 percent for the New York Knicks. Grouping New Yorkers as fans of the four major sports according to their team preferences, 58 percent are baseball fans, 48 percent are football fans, 31 percent follow basketball and 13 percent follow hockey.

“Despite injuries and age, New Yorkers in general and especially Yankee fans, think both Yankee captain, Derek Jeter and closer, Mariano Rivera, will bounce back and have successful seasons,” according to Levy. “While about 6 in 10 New Yorkers predict big years for Jeter and Rivera, over three quarters of sports fans and almost as many Yankee fans see the two veterans putting up big numbers this summer.”

“Another of the Yankees’ injured stars, Alex Rodriguez, also gets a vote of confidence from a plurality of all New Yorkers and a small majority of the Yankee faithful,” Levy notes. “While far more, thirty-two percent of all New Yorkers and thirty-six percent of Yankee fans, predict A-Rod’s season will be unproductive compared to only a scant number of nay-sayers for either Derek or Mo, a plurality of all New Yorkers and just over half of Yankee fans believe the former MVP will once again contribute to the Yankee pennant hopes.”

While a majority of New Yorkers expect the Yankees to make the playoffs this year, only 19 percent of all New Yorkers and a quarter of Met fans believe the Mets will play in the post-season. In basketball, 54 percent of all New Yorkers and 87 percent of their fans expected the Knicks to make the playoffs as the season entered its final stage. Only 25 percent of state residents predicted the Brooklyn Nets would reach the playoffs in their first season in New York but 39 percent of basketball fans expected the Nets to compete in the post-season. In hockey, 32 percent of all fans see the New York Rangers reaching the playoffs, twelve percent expect both the New York Islanders and New Jersey Devils to make it to the playoffs and only 6 percent predict success for the Buffalo Sabres. Among hockey fans those ‘make-the-playoff’ predictions are: Rangers 54 percent, Islanders 24 percent, Devils 23 percent and Sabres 12 percent.

Asked which of all the New York area teams has the best chance of winning a championship this season, the Yankees (28%) edge out the Giants (23%) among all New Yorkers but among sports fans, the Giants receive the most votes (31%) followed by the Yankees (26%) and the Knicks (16%). Among their own fans, the Yankees and Giants both garner 44 percent of their fan base that believe their team will go all the way this year while 38 percent of Knick fans believe their team will be hoisting the trophy.

The SRI New York Sports Poll was conducted April 2 – 4, 7 - 10, 2013 by random telephone calls to 813 New York adults via landline and cell phones. Data was statistically adjusted by age and gender to ensure representativeness. SRI reports this data at a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of ± 3.5 points. There are 719 registered voters with a margin of error of ± 3.7 . For more information or comments, please call Dr. Don Levy, Director Siena College Research Institute, at 518-783-2901. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at www.siena.edu/sri/research



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Siena College Poll Trends – April 2013

Q. 22 Turning to one other subject before we close, would you describe yourself as a sports fan, or not?

DATE	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2013	58	42	0
April 2012	57	42	0
September 2011	64	36	0
March 2011	59	41	0
April 2010	61	39	0
November 2009	60	40	0
March 2008	61	38	1
February 2008	63	37	0

Q. 23 Now, thinking about some sports teams in the New York area, which of the following teams would you say is your favorite?

DATE	YANKEES	GIANTS	METS	BILLS	KNICKS	JETS	OTHER	DON'T KNOW	NO FAVORITE
April 2013	28	13	10	5	10	4	18	2	10
April 2012	31	17	9	6	6	5	14	2	10
September 2011	28	10	7	5	3	5	29	2	10
March 2011	30	8	11	5	11	9	16	2	8
April 2010	28	8	9	5	1	3	33	0	13
March 2008	27	9	12	4	3	2	31	0	13

Now, thinking about some sports teams in the New York area, which of the following teams would you say is your favorite? Of the remaining teams, which team is your second favorite? (COMBINED)

DATE	YANKEES FAN	GIANTS FAN	METS FAN	BILLS FAN	KNICKS FAN	JETS FAN
April 2013	45	29	22	12	17	10
April 2012	45	37	18	11	15	14
March 2011	45	24	21	12	20	21

Q. 31 (Among Registered Voters) Do you support or oppose the legalization of mixed martial arts, known as MMA, in New York State?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION /DON'T KNOW
April 2013	43	33	24
May 2012	32	26	42

Poll Trend Notes:* All surveys are of New York State residents, except May 2012 which was among New York registered voters. The polls of March and September 2011 and April 2012 and 2013 include both landline and cell phone samples.