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Contact:
PATRICK MURRAY
732-979-6769 (cell); 732-263-5858 (office)
pdmurray@monmouth.edu
Follow on Twitter: @PollsterPatrick

NATIONAL: PLAY BALL! AMERICA MISSES PRO SPORTS

Baseball tops list as sport missed most during Covid shutdown

West Long Branch, NJ – The coronavirus pandemic has left many Americans pining for the return of live sporting events according to the *Monmouth (“Mon-muth”) University Poll*. One-third miss being able to watch sports a lot and one-quarter miss it a little. Major League Baseball tops the list of professional leagues that Americans most want to see back on the field.

A majority (56%) of Americans describe themselves as professional sports fans and nearly 6 in 10 say they miss being able to watch live sporting events – 32% miss them a lot and 26% a little. Another 42% say they do not miss pro sports at all.

Younger adults aged 18 to 34 (54%) are more likely than those aged 35 to 54 (34%) and those aged 55 or older (39%) to say they do not miss sports at all. More men (37%) than women (27%), though, say they are missing live pro sports a lot. Americans of color are more likely than white Americans to say they miss pro sporting events a lot (38% to 29%) and are less likely to say they do not miss them at all (33% to 47%). Interestingly, 17% of those who do not consider themselves to be a sports fan still say they miss being able to watch live sporting events.

“Sports are woven into the fabric of America. The suspension of pro sports did not just rob fans of their favorite pastimes, but it also disrupted the rhythm of life for the entire country,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

When asked which sports they miss the most that are usually in season now, 25% of the American public names baseball and 19% says basketball. Another 14% name football – even though the NFL season doesn’t start for a few more months. Other sports mentioned include hockey (5%), soccer (4%), golf (3%), tennis (2%), motor racing (2%), boxing, UFC and MMA (2%), and the Olympics (2%).

Among those who miss live pro sports a lot, half (49%) say they are really hankering for the return of baseball, 4 in 10 (39%) want some hoops action and about one-quarter (23%) can’t wait for the

first kickoff. Among those who miss sports a little, 36% name baseball, 24% name basketball, and 24% name football as a live sport they miss the most.

Similar numbers of men and women say the sports they miss most are baseball (25% men and 26% women) and football (13% men and 14% women), but men (23%) are more likely than women (15%) to miss basketball. White Americans (27%) are slightly more likely than those who are Latino, black, Asian, or of another race (22%) to be missing baseball, but people of color are much more likely than whites to be missing basketball (32% to 11%), and somewhat more likely to be missing football (20% to 9%).

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from May 28 to June 1, 2020 with 807 adults in the United States. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-3 & 11-18 previously released.]

[Q4-10 held for future release.]

19. Would you say you are a fan of professional sports or not?

	June 2020
Yes, a fan	56%
(VOL) Yes, depends on the sport	2%
No, not a fan	42%
(VOL) Don't know	0%
(n)	(807)

20. How much do you miss being able to watch live sporting events – a lot, a little, or not at all?

	June 2020
A lot	32%
A little	26%
Not at all	42%
(n)	(807)

20A. Of the sports that usually play their seasons now, which do you miss the most? [LIST WAS NOT READ] [Note: Results add to more than 100% because multiple responses were accepted]

	June 2020
Baseball	25%
Basketball	19%
Football	14%
Hockey	5%
Soccer	4%
Golf	3%
Tennis	2%
Motor racing	2%
Boxing, UFC, MMA	2%
The Olympics	2%
Other	2%
No answer	2%
Do not miss watching sports (from Q20)	42%
(n)	(807)

[Q21-27 held for future release.]

[Q28-39, B1-B10 & Q40-57 previously released.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from May 28 to June 1, 2020 with a national random sample of 807 adults age 18 and older. This includes 279 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 528 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Troidahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (ACS 2018 one-year survey). Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and Dynata (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
27% Republican	
41% Independent	
31% Democrat	
49% Male	
51% Female	
30% 18-34	
33% 35-54	
36% 55+	
64% White	
12% Black	
16% Hispanic	
8% Asian/Other	
69% No degree	
31% 4 year degree	

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted sample</i>	<i>moe (+/-)</i>
TOTAL		807	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	742	3.6%
	No	65	12.2%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	200	6.9%
PARTY ID	Independent	330	5.4%
	Democrat	274	5.9%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	232	6.4%
	Moderate	313	5.5%
	Conservative	252	6.2%
GENDER	Male	399	4.9%
	Female	408	4.9%
AGE	18-34	167	7.6%
	35-54	323	5.5%
	55+	313	5.5%
CHILDREN IN HOME	Yes	230	6.5%
	No	575	4.1%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	588	4.1%
	Other	200	6.9%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	353	5.2%
	4 year degree	451	4.6%
WHITE COLLEGE	White, no degree	252	6.2%
	White, 4 year degree	335	5.4%
INCOME	<\$50K	233	6.4%
	\$50 to <100K	265	6.0%
	\$100K+	267	6.0%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 6/10/20

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19. Would you say you are a fan of professional sports or not?	Yes, a fan	56%	56%	53%	55%	57%	55%	48%	59%	59%
	(VOL) Yes, depends on the sport	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%	3%	3%	2%	0%
	No, not a fan	42%	42%	47%	44%	42%	42%	48%	39%	41%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
19. Would you say you are a fan of professional sports or not?	Yes, a fan	58%	54%	43%	66%	58%	61%	54%	52%	63%
	(VOL) Yes, depends on the sport	2%	2%	1%	0%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%
	No, not a fan	40%	45%	56%	34%	39%	38%	44%	46%	36%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
19. Would you say you are a fan of professional sports or not?	Yes, a fan	52%	64%	49%	59%	50%	56%	65%
	(VOL) Yes, depends on the sport	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
	No, not a fan	46%	35%	49%	39%	48%	44%	33%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20. How much do you miss being able to watch live sporting events - a lot, a little, or not at all?	A lot	32%	32%	34%	28%	34%	33%	28%	35%	33%
	A little	26%	26%	23%	31%	22%	25%	22%	27%	27%
	Not at all	42%	42%	44%	40%	43%	42%	50%	38%	40%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
20. How much do you miss being able to watch live sporting events - a lot, a little, or not at all?	A lot	37%	27%	28%	36%	32%	37%	31%	29%	38%
	A little	25%	27%	18%	30%	29%	25%	26%	23%	29%
	Not at all	38%	46%	54%	34%	39%	37%	44%	47%	33%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 6/10/20

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
20. How much do you miss being able to watch live sporting events - a lot, a little, or not at all?	A lot	32%	34%	28%	32%	31%	31%	35%
	A little	24%	29%	22%	27%	22%	26%	32%
	Not at all	44%	37%	50%	41%	48%	43%	33%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20A. Of the sports that usually play their seasons now, which do you miss the most? [MULTIPLE RESPONSE. LIST NOT READ]	Baseball	25%	26%	19%	30%	22%	25%	24%	24%	28%
	Basketball	19%	18%	24%	11%	20%	24%	20%	23%	14%
	Hockey	5%	5%	4%	4%	6%	4%	5%	4%	5%
	Soccer	4%	4%	9%	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%
	Golf	3%	3%	0%	5%	2%	2%	0%	2%	5%
	Tennis	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
	Football	14%	13%	21%	13%	13%	15%	9%	15%	15%
	Motor racing	2%	2%	0%	6%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%
	Boxing, UFC, MMA	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%	1%
	The Olympics	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
	Other	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
	No answer	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	0%	1%	4%
[Q20] Do not miss at all	42%	42%	44%	40%	43%	42%	50%	38%	40%	

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
20A. Of the sports that usually play their seasons now, which do you miss the most? [MULTIPLE RESPONSE. LIST NOT READ]	Baseball	25%	26%	19%	27%	28%	25%	25%	27%	22%
	Basketball	23%	15%	16%	22%	18%	21%	18%	11%	32%
	Hockey	6%	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%	4%	7%	0%
	Soccer	5%	3%	4%	6%	2%	4%	4%	3%	5%
	Golf	3%	2%	0%	2%	6%	1%	3%	3%	2%
	Tennis	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Football	13%	14%	8%	18%	13%	16%	13%	9%	20%
	Motor racing	3%	1%	0%	3%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%
	Boxing, UFC, MMA	3%	1%	3%	2%	0%	6%	0%	1%	3%
	The Olympics	2%	3%	0%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%
	Other	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
	No answer	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
[Q20] Do not miss at all	38%	46%	54%	34%	39%	37%	44%	47%	33%	

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 6/10/20

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
20A. Of the sports that usually play their seasons now, which do you miss the most? [MULTIPLE RESPONSE. LIST NOT READ]	Baseball	23%	31%	25%	33%	21%	26%	33%
	Basketball	18%	20%	11%	13%	19%	19%	19%
	Hockey	5%	4%	8%	6%	4%	5%	5%
	Soccer	3%	7%	2%	5%	3%	4%	6%
	Golf	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%
	Tennis	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
	Football	14%	13%	9%	11%	11%	15%	12%
	Motor racing	3%	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%	2%
	Boxing, UFC, MMA	2%	0%	2%	0%	2%	3%	0%
	The Olympics	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%	3%	4%
	Other	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
	No answer	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	0%	3%
	[Q20] Do not miss at all	44%	37%	50%	41%	48%	43%	33%