



*behavior research center's*

# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

NEWS RELEASE  
RMP 2001-III-11

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## HUGE GAP IN VIEWS ABOUT RECRUITING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES INTO PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Phoenix, Arizona, August 3, 2001. In this year's National Basketball Association draft, three of the first five individuals selected were high school athletes, a practice that draws a strong division of opinion as to its acceptability among Arizonans polled on this issue; 48 percent disapprove while 42 percent approve.

Additionally, by a nearly two to one margin, the public here says it approves of a recent recommendation by the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics that colleges which graduate fewer than half of their players be ineligible for conference championship or post season play. The Commission's report concluded that the threat of athletic enterprise overwhelming the integrity of higher education was greater today than it was a decade ago.

Both issues reveal huge gaps in perspective, depending upon the age and ethnicity of the adult responding. Thus, support for drafting high school athlete students by NBA teams falls off radically among older adults and Caucasians. In contrast, among adults under 45 years of age and adults within the minority community, approval of this aspect of the draft is very strong. Similarly, older adults and Caucasians are the most supportive of banning college teams from championship or post season play if they graduate fewer than half of their athlete students.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 702 adults across Arizona conducted between July 5, 2001 and July 11, 2001 by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit [www.brcpolls.com](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent poll results.

-30-

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2001-III-11), is based on 702 interviews with adults throughout Arizona between July 5, 2001 and July 11, 2001. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of +/- 3.7 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
 RMP 2001-III-11

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*“A commission on college sports has recommended that college teams which graduate less than half of their players be ineligible for conference championship or post-season play. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?”*

	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DON'T CARE/ UNSURE
Statewide	54%	28%	18%
Under 45	49	33	18
45+	58	23	19
Caucasian	57	26	17
Non-Caucasian	48	33	19

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*“Recently, the National Basketball Association held its annual player draft and three of the first five individuals selected were high school athletes. Do you approve or disapprove of professional sports teams drafting athletes from high school?”*

	APPROVE	DIS-APPROVE	DON'T CARE/ UNSURE
Statewide	42%	48%	10%
Under 45	55	39	6
45+	31	54	15
Caucasian	38	51	11
Non-Caucasian	55	38	7

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