

February 29, 2008

Baseball Fans: Clemens Lied About Steroid Use

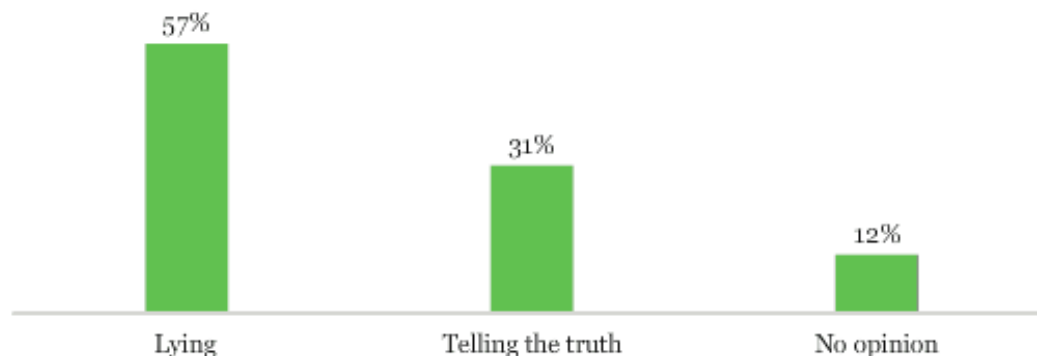
Most still think he deserves Hall of Fame honors

by Jeffrey M. Jones

PRINCETON, NJ -- A recent *USA Today*/Gallup poll finds that most baseball fans believe Roger Clemens was lying when he testified before Congress that he never used steroids.

As you may know, Roger Clemens testified before Congress that he never used steroids. Based on what you have heard or read, do you think Clemens was -- [ROTATED: lying (or) telling the truth]?

Asked of baseball fans



USA Today/Gallup, Feb. 21-24, 2008

GALLUP POLL

Congress -- acting on the assumption that Clemens provided untruthful testimony -- has asked the Justice Department to investigate possible criminal charges against Clemens. But baseball fans are by no means united in believing that Clemens and other players named in former Sen. George Mitchell's report on past steroid use in baseball should be punished. Baseball fans are more likely to say they have a favorable than an unfavorable opinion of Clemens, and the majority of fans still believe Clemens deserves to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Feb. 21-24 poll finds 45% of baseball fans saying they have a favorable opinion of Clemens and 37% an unfavorable opinion. His friend and former teammate Andy Pettitte, who has contradicted Clemens' testimony, is rated much more positively (44%) than negatively (23%), though 32% are not familiar enough with Pettitte to rate him.

Barry Bonds does not fare nearly as well in the court of public opinion -- 60% of fans rate him unfavorably and 30% favorably.

These players' legacies will ultimately be decided when they come up for admission to the Hall of Fame. Sixty-two percent of baseball fans think Clemens should be enshrined in Cooperstown, and 29% say he

should not be.

Notably, even fans who believe Clemens lied before Congress are more likely than not to say he should be elected to the Hall of Fame, by a 51% to 44% margin. As would be expected, those who believe he provided truthful testimony overwhelmingly think he should be a Hall of Famer (89% to 5%).

In addition to Clemens, the poll asked whether each of seven other former star players should be elected to the Hall of Fame. Clemens receives the third most "yes" votes, behind Sammy Sosa (68%) and Pete Rose (66%), with roughly the same percentage as Rickey Henderson and Mark McGwire (61% each).

Fans are less charitable toward Bonds, with 46% saying he should be elected to the Hall of Fame and 50% saying he should not be. The only player of the eight who gets significantly more "no" votes than "yes" votes is Jose Canseco. Canseco's career résumé may not be as impressive as those of others on the list, and he has also publicly admitted to steroid use -- unlike McGwire, Bonds, and Clemens.

For each of the following former baseball players, please say whether you think he should or should not be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame? [RANDOM ORDER]

Asked of baseball fans

	Yes, should	No, should not	No opinion
	%	%	%
Sammy Sosa	68	26	5
Pete Rose	66	31	3
Roger Clemens	62	29	9
Rickey Henderson	61	14	26
Mark McGwire	61	32	7
Jim Rice	47	19	34
Barry Bonds	46	50	4
Jose Canseco	40	49	11

Feb. 21-24 USA Today/Gallup Poll

GALLUP POLL

Clemens was not widely believed to have used steroids until he was named in the Mitchell report, released last December. In general, baseball fans seem more inclined than not to forgive these players' past indiscretions -- 55% say Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig should not punish current major leaguers named as past steroid users in the Mitchell report, but 39% believe Selig should punish those players. Selig has yet to make a decision on how he will proceed, but Mitchell recommended against any type of punishment.

It's unclear whether Mitchell's recommendation carried any weight with the fans, but their attitudes on that matter are dramatically different from what they were just prior to the release of the report. In a Nov. 30-Dec. 2 USA Today/Gallup poll, 60% of baseball fans said Selig should punish current baseball players named in the report, and 37% said he should not.

The poll finds 43% of Americans identifying themselves as baseball fans. That continues to be on the low end of what Gallup has measured historically. (See "Baseball Fan Base Near Recent Low" in Related Items.)

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 456 baseball fans, aged 18 and older, conducted Feb. 21-24, 2008. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

3. Next, we'd like to get your opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these people -- or if you have never heard of them. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Never heard of	No opinion
E. Baseball player, Barry Bonds	%	%	%	%
National adults	25	47	10	17
Baseball fans	30	60	2	8

F. Baseball player, Roger Clemens				
National adults	32	34	14	21
Baseball fans	45	37	3	15

G. Baseball player, Andy Pettitte				
National adults	27	17	34	22
Baseball fans	44	23	15	17

GALLUP POLL

29. Now turning to baseball, are you a fan of professional baseball, or not?

	Yes, a fan	SOMEWHAT OF A FAN (vol.)	No, not a fan	No opinion
	%	%	%	%
2008 Feb 21-24	35	8	56	1
2007 Dec 14-16	40	7	53	*
2007 Nov 30-Dec 2	34	5	61	*
2007 May 4-6	37	8	55	*
2007 Mar 23-25	36	7	56	*
2006 Dec 8-10	35	6	59	*
2006 Sep 15-17	37	9	54	--
2006 Jul 21-23	40	12	48	*
2006 Apr 7-9	33	8	58	*
2006 Mar 10-12	37	10	53	--
2005 Dec 9-11	36	11	53	*
2005 Aug 5-7	37	10	53	*
2005 Mar 18-20	39	9	52	*
2005 Jan 14-16	41	7	52	*
2004 Mar 26-28	36	9	55	*
2003 Nov 14-16	43	8	49	*
2003 Oct 24-26	44	11	45	--
2003 Oct 10-12	42	8	50	*
2003 Jun 27-29	36	10	54	*
2003 Jun 9-10	39	11	50	*
2002 Nov 8-10	38	13	49	*
2002 Aug 19-21	37	8	54	1
2002 Jul 26-28	37	10	53	*
2002 Jun 7-8	36	16	48	--
2002 Jan 11-14	36	11	53	*
2001 Nov 26-27	38	10	52	*
2001 Nov 2-4	45	11	44	*
2001 Jun 8-10	35	14	51	--
2000 May 5-7	35	11	54	--
2000 Apr 28-30	40	12	48	--
1999 Nov 18-21	45	16	39	--
1999 Oct 21-24	37	10	53	--
1999 Jul 13-14	40	19	41	--
1999 Mar 19-21	34	15	51	--
1998 Oct 9-12	47	14	39	--
1998 Sep 14-15	45	18	37	--
1998 Jun 22-23	34	10	56	--
1996 Mar 15-17	38	10	52	--
1995 Oct 5-7	34	8	58	--
1995 Jul 7-9	35	13	52	--
1995 May 11-14	35	10	55	--
1995 Apr 17-19	32	9	59	--
1995 Feb 24-26	37	12	51	--
1995 Jan 16-18	37	8	55	--

1994 Oct 17-19	39	9	52	--
1994 Sep 6-7	35	11	54	--
1994 Aug 15-16	39	10	51	--
1994 Aug 8-9	35	20	45	--
1993 May 21-23	39	10	51	--
1993 Feb 12-14	44	7	49	--

(vol.) = Volunteered response

* Less than 0.5%

GALLUP POLL

30. For each of the following former baseball players, please say whether you think he should or should not be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame? [RANDOM ORDER]

Asked of baseball fans

	Yes, should	No, should not	No opinion
A. Mark McGwire	%	%	%
2008 Feb 21-24	61	32	7
2006 Dec 8-10	57	35	7
2005 Aug 5-7	60	32	8
B. Jim Rice			
2008 Feb 21-24	47	19	34
2006 Dec 8-10	53	13	34
C. Jose Canseco			
2008 Feb 21-24	40	49	11
2006 Dec 8-10	48	40	12
D. Pete Rose			
2008 Feb 21-24	66	31	3
E. Barry Bonds			
2008 Feb 21-24	46	50	4
2007 May 4-6 ^	62	33	5
2006 Dec 8-10	48	44	9
2006 Mar 10-12 ^	49	43	7
2005 Aug 5-7	57	34	9
F. Sammy Sosa			
2008 Feb 21-24	68	26	5
2006 Dec 8-10	63	31	7
2005 Aug 5-7	59	33	8
G. Roger Clemens			
2008 Feb 21-24	62	29	9
H. Rickey Henderson			
2008 Feb 21-24	61	14	26

^ Asked as a stand-alone question

GALLUP POLL

31. As you may know, George Mitchell submitted the report on his investigation into steroid use in Major League Baseball last December. Do you think Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig should -- or should not -- punish current Major League Baseball players who are named in the report for having used steroids in the past?

Asked of baseball fans

	Yes, should	No, should not	No opinion
2008 Feb 21-24	39%	55	5
2007 Nov 30-Dec 2 ^	60%	37	3

^ WORDING: As you may know, George Mitchell will soon submit his report on steroid use in baseball to Commissioner Bud Selig. Do you think Bud Selig should -- or should not -- punish current Major League Baseball players who are named in the report for having used steroids in the past?

GALLUP POLL

32. As you may know, Roger Clemens testified before Congress that he never used steroids. Based on what you have heard or read, do you think Clemens was -- [ROTATED: lying (or) telling the truth]?

Asked of baseball fans

	Lying	Telling the truth	No opinion
2008 Feb 21-24	57%	31	12

GALLUP POLL

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