



CBS News/New York Times Poll
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ALEX RODRIGUEZ AND STEROID USE IN BASEBALL
February 18-22, 2009

Baseball fans today hold an unfavorable view of Alex Rodriguez, the Yankee third baseman who recently admitted to using a banned performance-enhancing substance between 2001 and 2003. By a margin of more than two to one, baseball fans (those very or somewhat interested in the game) have a negative opinion of "A-Rod".

OPINION OF ALEX RODRIGUEZ

(Among baseball fans)

Favorable	17%
Not favorable	41
Undecided	27
Haven't heard enough	10

And in spite of being the youngest player ever to hit 500 home runs in his career, more fans think he should not be eligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame someday than think he should.

SHOULD ALEX RODRIGUEZ BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE HALL OF FAME?

(Among baseball fans)

Yes, should	36%
No, should not	44
Don't know	20

Rodriguez's admitted use of banned performance-enhancing drugs seems to be driving this judgment. Most fans who care a lot about steroid use in baseball do not think he should be eligible, while fans that don't care as much think he should.

And this is an issue many fans care about - more so today, following Rodriguez's announcement, than one year ago. Now 60% say they care a lot about the issue of steroid use in major league baseball, up from 53% last year.

DO YOU CARE ABOUT STEROID USE IN BASEBALL?

(Among baseball fans)

	Now	3/2008
A lot	60%	53%
A little	29	29
Not at all	9	16

Yet baseball fans do not think steroid use is widespread in the game today. Only 15% of fans think most baseball players use steroids now, and another 22% think half of players do. A majority, 57%, think just a quarter or a few use the drugs.

HOW MANY CURRENT PLAYERS USE STEROIDS?

(Among baseball fans)

	Now	3/2008	7/2002
Most	15%	11%	6%
Half	22	23	20
Quarter	38	36	24
Only a few	19	22	31

In assessing players' statistical records, fans are more forgiving of steroid users today than they were two years ago. In May 2007 (as San Francisco slugger Barry Bonds was aiming for the all-time home run record) half of fans generally thought proven steroid users should have their achievements stripped from the record books.

Today, only a third agree. 65% think these records should stand, including nearly half who think there should at least be a note explaining that the record was set while the player was using steroids.

IF ATHLETES USE STEROIDS, SHOULD THEIR RECORDS BE...?

(Among baseball fans)

	Now	5/2007
Eliminated	32%	50%
Kept, with a note	47	33
Kept like any other	18	16

Rodriguez's Yankee teammate Derek Jeter is the most popular baseball player, volunteered by 12% as their favorite. Rodriguez is volunteered as the favorite major league baseball player of 3% of baseball fans - matching the percentage who named Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols and Seattle Mariners outfielder Ken Griffey, Jr.

FAVORITE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER

(Among baseball fans)

Derek Jeter	12%
Albert Pujols	3
Alex Rodriguez	3
Ken Griffey Jr.	3

In total, 32% of Americans are baseball fans - including 14% who call themselves "very interested" in the game and 18% "somewhat" interested. Men (40%) are more apt to be fans than women (26%).

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,112 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone February 18-22 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for baseball fans is five points.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
Alex Rodriguez and Steroid Use in Baseball
February 18-22, 2009

q84 How interested are you in watching or following major league baseball -- very interested, somewhat interested, or not interested at all?

	Total Respondents	Mar08a
	%	%
Very interested	14	16
Somewhat interested	18	30
Not interested at all	67	53
DK/NA	1	1

q85 Which current major league baseball player is your favorite?

	Baseball Fans	Mar08a
	%	%
Derek Jeter	12	9
Ken Griffey Jr.	3	2
Albert Pujols	3	2
Alex Rodriguez	3	5
Mike Lowell	2	1
Chipper Jones	2	2
No one	3	9
Other	27	33
DK/NA	45	39

q86 Is your opinion of Alex Rodriguez favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Alex Rodriguez yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	17
Not favorable	41
Undecided	27
Haven't heard enough	10
Refused	5

q87 From what you know so far, do you think Alex Rodriguez should or should not be eligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame?

Yes, should	36
No, should not	44
Yes, not first ballot (vol)	0
DK/NA	20

q88 How many major league baseball players do you think use steroids to enhance their athletic performance -- most of them, about half of them, about a quarter of them, or only a few of them?

Most	15	11
Half	22	23
Quarter	38	36
Only a few	19	22
None (vol.)	0	0
Don't know/No answer	6	8

q89 How much does it matter to you as a baseball fan if professional baseball players use steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs? Do you care a lot, a little or not at all?

	Baseball Fans	Mar08a
	%	%
A lot	60	53
A little	29	29
Not at all	9	16
DK/NA	2	2

q90 If it is proven that an athlete used steroids at the time he or she set a major record in a sport, what do you think should happen to that record? 1. It should be eliminated from the record books, or 2. It should be kept in the record books, but with a note that the athlete used steroids when it was set, OR 3. It should be kept in the record books like any other record?

		May07a
Eliminated	32	50
Kept, with a note	47	33
Kept like any other	18	16
DK/NA	3	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1112	
Baseball Fans	429	365