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**PENNSYLVANIA’S NFL FANS SAY: DON’T BAN THE TUSH PUSH,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS POLL FINDS;
EAGLES FLY AS BEST PA TEAM, PIRATES & 76ERS VIEWED AS WORST TEAMS**

The tush push has the football world buzzing again this season after it survived a vote by NFL team owners threatening to ban it. Pennsylvanians are now weighing in on the controversial play where the quarterback pushes forward with the ball while his teammates push him from behind. NFL fans in Pennsylvania 72 – 16 percent think that the tush push should be allowed. This is according to a Quinnipiac University sports poll of adults in Pennsylvania released today. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Quinnipiac University School of Communications.

The Eagles made the tush push their signature move and Eagles fans 81 – 8 percent support allowing the play. Still, Pennsylvanians who are fans of other NFL teams also support allowing the play, 65 – 23 percent.

“When questions arose about whether or not to ban the Tush Push, the NFL said no. NFL fans in Pennsylvania clearly agree with that sentiment. Just because the other teams can’t stop it isn’t a good enough reason to get rid of it,” said Nick Pietruszkiewicz, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Program Director of Sports Communications, Quinnipiac University.

Brittani Webb, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Media Studies, Quinnipiac University School of Communications added, “NFL fans do not appreciate it when the league waters down or bans risky yet exciting aspects of the game. In the case of the controversial tush push, the support for the Eagles’ signature play crosses fandom lines and follows that same ‘let them play’ attitude.”

STEELERS & AARON RODGERS

What do Pennsylvania’s NFL fans think about the Steelers signing Aaron Rodgers to a one-year, \$13.6 million contract? Forty-four percent think the Steelers made the right move in signing Rodgers to be their starting quarterback, while 34 percent think the Steelers made the wrong move, and 21 percent did not offer an opinion.

Among Steelers fans in the state, 52 percent think signing Rodgers was the right move, while 33 percent think it was the wrong move. Forty-three percent of fans of other NFL teams think it was the right move, while 35 percent think it was the wrong move.

“Aaron Rodgers remains one of the NFL’s most polarizing players – his on-field achievements and off-field controversies divide fans. Now, as the league’s oldest active player, it’s understandable why fans across Pennsylvania are torn on his signing being the right or wrong move,” added Webb.

ALL-PA SUPER BOWL

If the Eagles and the Steelers played each other in the Super Bowl, Pennsylvanians 53 – 37 percent say they would want the Eagles to win.

BEST TEAMS

Given a list of eight teams and asked which they think is Pennsylvania's best professional sports team, the Super Bowl LIX winner and currently undefeated Eagles top the list with 48 percent, followed distantly by the Steelers (20 percent) and the Phillies (10 percent), with no other team reaching double digits.

In Eastern Pennsylvania, 68 percent think the Eagles are the best professional sports team in Pennsylvania, followed by the Phillies (14 percent). No other team reaches double digits.

Looking at Philadelphia, 78 percent think the Eagles are the best professional sports team in Pennsylvania. No other team reaches double digits.

In Western Pennsylvania, the Steelers top the list with 49 percent, followed by the Eagles (21 percent) and the Penguins (14 percent). No other team reaches double digits.

In Allegheny County, the Steelers top the list with 48 percent, followed by the Eagles (25 percent) and the Penguins (14 percent), with the remaining listed teams in single digits.

“You could ask this question the day after the Phillies win the World Series or the Flyers win the Stanley Cup and the answer would still be the Eagles. Football is king, and, in Pennsylvania, so are the Eagles,” added Pietruszkiewicz.

WORST TEAMS

Given a list of eight teams and asked which they think is Pennsylvania's worst professional sports team, the Pirates top the list (23 percent) followed by the 76ers (15 percent). The Pirates have not had a winning record since 2018, when they went 82 – 79, and have not made the post-season since 2015.

In Eastern Pennsylvania, 23 percent think the 76ers are the worst professional sports team in Pennsylvania, followed by the Pirates (14 percent) and the Flyers (12 percent). No other team reaches double digits.

In Philadelphia, 28 percent think the 76ers are the worst professional sports team in Pennsylvania, followed by the Pirates (14 percent), the Flyers (11 percent), and the Penguins (11 percent). No other team reaches double digits.

“For a long time, the 76ers lived by the phrase ‘Trust the Process.’ That’s over. It didn’t work. And fans in Philadelphia have run out of patience,” added Pietruszkiewicz.

In Western Pennsylvania, the Pirates top the worst professional sports team list with 45 percent. No other team reaches double digits.

In Allegheny County, 55 percent think the Pirates are the worst professional sports team in Pennsylvania, with no other team reaching double digits.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

It has been six years since longstanding college football rivals Penn State and Pitt faced each other on the field and there is a high interest in seeing them play a game again.

Seventy-three percent of college football fans in the state say they are either very interested (37 percent) or somewhat interested (36 percent) in seeing a game between Penn State and Pitt return to the schedule, while 25 percent say they are either not so interested (10 percent) or not interested at all (15 percent).

1,727 adults in Pennsylvania were surveyed from September 25th – 29th with a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on probability-based samples using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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Email poll@qu.edu or follow us on X [@QuinnipiacPoll](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll).

15. Who do you think is Pennsylvania's - best professional sports team: the Phillies, the Pirates, the 76ers, the Eagles, the Steelers, the Flyers, the Penguins, or the Union?

ADULTS.....									
	AGE IN YRS.....							4YR COL DEG	
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No
The Phillies	10%	11%	9%	6%	9%	11%	13%	12%	9%
The Pirates	1	1	2	1	-	1	2	1	2
The 76ers	1	2	1	2	2	1	-	1	1
The Eagles	48	48	48	59	52	42	44	52	46
The Steelers	20	20	20	16	18	25	22	17	22
The Flyers	1	2	1	2	1	1	-	1	1
The Penguins	5	5	6	5	7	6	5	5	5
The Union	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
DK/NA	12	11	13	9	10	12	13	9	13

AREA.....									
WEST.....					EAST.....				
	Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central	Tot	NthEst	SthEst	Philly
The Phillies	3%	3%	5%	1%	11%	14%	10%	19%	9%
The Pirates	3	1	1	6	1	1	2	-	-
The 76ers	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	1
The Eagles	21	17	25	21	43	68	60	66	78
The Steelers	49	45	48	53	19	3	5	2	4
The Flyers	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	1
The Penguins	14	15	14	13	3	1	4	-	-
The Union	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-
DK/NA	10	18	6	5	18	10	17	8	7

16. Who do you think is Pennsylvania's - worst professional sports team: the Phillies, the Pirates, the 76ers, the Eagles, the Steelers, the Flyers, the Penguins, or the Union?

ADULTS.....									
	AGE IN YRS.....							4YR COL DEG	
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No
The Phillies	4%	5%	2%	6%	4%	3%	2%	1%	5%
The Pirates	23	27	19	19	26	28	23	29	20
The 76ers	15	18	12	16	17	15	14	18	14
The Eagles	6	6	5	7	7	7	1	6	6
The Steelers	6	5	6	8	9	5	2	5	6
The Flyers	8	8	8	8	9	8	10	8	9
The Penguins	6	6	6	10	7	5	4	4	7
The Union	5	5	5	5	4	6	7	6	5
DK/NA	26	17	35	22	16	24	36	22	28

AREA.....									
WEST.....					EAST.....				
	Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central	Tot	NthEst	SthEst	Philly
The Phillies	4%	8%	3%	3%	3%	3%	8%	2%	-
The Pirates	45	27	55	50	17	14	15	13	14
The 76ers	7	6	7	8	11	23	14	25	28
The Eagles	6	4	-	14	8	4	6	3	2
The Steelers	4	8	-	3	8	6	5	6	6
The Flyers	6	7	7	5	6	12	11	13	11
The Penguins	3	4	3	-	6	8	8	7	11
The Union	5	5	4	6	6	5	4	7	4
DK/NA	20	30	21	10	34	26	29	25	24

17. Thinking about - professional football, would you describe yourself as a super fan, a fan, a casual fan, or not a fan?

ADULTS.....									
			AGE IN YRS.....				4YR COL DEG		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No
Super fan	14%	15%	12%	9%	20%	15%	10%	13%	14%
Fan	26	28	24	13	22	34	36	29	24
Casual fan	34	33	35	49	30	30	30	33	35
Not a fan	26	23	29	28	27	20	22	23	27
DK/NA	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
AREA.....									
WEST.....						EAST.....			
	Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central		Tot	NthEst	SthEst Philly
Super fan	16%	14%	17%	17%	8%		16%	10%	16% 20%
Fan	32	28	34	34	20		26	25	26 27
Casual fan	28	31	25	29	39		34	29	37 36
Not a fan	23	28	23	20	31		24	36	21 16
DK/NA	1	-	2	-	1		-	-	1 -

18. Thinking about - college football, would you describe yourself as a super fan, a fan, a casual fan, or not a fan?

ADULTS.....									
			AGE IN YRS.....				4YR COL DEG		
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No
Super fan	7%	9%	6%	4%	9%	5%	10%	7%	7%
Fan	15	21	10	8	16	21	17	18	14
Casual fan	28	29	27	26	23	28	33	30	27
Not a fan	49	41	57	61	52	44	38	45	51
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1
AREA.....									
WEST.....						EAST.....			
	Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central		Tot	NthEst	SthEst Philly
Super fan	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%		5%	8%	3% 6%
Fan	19	13	12	32	14		13	19	12 10
Casual fan	26	29	35	14	30		28	28	28 27
Not a fan	47	49	45	45	47		53	45	55 57
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	1		1	-	2 1

19 cont'd. (If professional football super fan, fan or casual fan q17) Who is your favorite NFL team?

ADULTS.....			
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FANS Q17.....			
NFL FAN Q17.....			
	Super	Fan	Casual
49ers	2%	1%	1%
Bears	-	-	1
Bengals	-	1	-
Bills	3	2	1
Broncos	-	1	-
Browns	-	-	1
Buccaneers	-	-	-
Cardinals	-	-	-
Chargers	2	-	-
Chiefs	1	1	1
Colts	-	-	-
Commanders	2	1	1
Cowboys	4	2	5
Dolphins	1	-	1
Eagles	49	42	46
Falcons	-	-	-
Giants	-	3	1
Jaguars	-	-	-
Jets	1	1	1
Lions	-	1	-
Packers	1	2	1
Panthers	-	1	1
Patriots	1	1	1
Raiders	1	-	1
Rams	-	-	-
Ravens	-	1	1
Saints	-	-	-
Seahawks	-	-	-
Steelers	29	33	21
Texans	-	1	-
Titans	-	-	-
Vikings	-	-	1
DK/NA	1	4	10

20. If the Eagles and the Steelers played each other in the Super Bowl, who would you want to win?

ADULTS.....									
AGE IN YRS.....									
4YR COL DEG									
Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	
Eagles	53%	50%	56%	64%	58%	48%	48%	57%	52%
Steelers	37	38	36	30	34	42	43	36	38
DK/NA	10	12	8	6	8	10	9	7	10
AREA.....									
WEST.....					EAST.....				
Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central	Tot	NthEst	SthEst	Philly	
Eagles	13%	16%	14%	9%	51%	80%	60%	85%	93%
Steelers	81	78	79	85	32	13	28	8	6
DK/NA	6	6	6	6	17	7	12	7	1
NFL FAN Q17.....									
	Super	Fan	Casual						
Eagles	60%	53%	62%						
Steelers	38	44	34						
DK/NA	2	3	4						

21. (If professional football super fan, fan or casual fan q17) The tush push is a football play typically used on very short yardage. The quarterback pushes forward with the ball while his teammates push him from behind. Do you think this play should be allowed in professional football or should be banned from the game?

	ADULTS.....								
	NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FANS Q17.....								
	AGE IN YRS.....							4YR COL	DEG
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No
Allowed	72%	77%	66%	69%	76%	74%	67%	74%	70%
Banned	16	17	16	15	17	15	19	16	16
DK/NA	12	7	17	16	7	10	14	9	13
	AREA.....								
	WEST.....							EAST.....	
	Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central		Tot	NthEst	SthEst Philly
Allowed	61%	59%	57%	66%	67%		81%	75%	80% 85%
Banned	24	25	27	19	19		11	18	9 8
DK/NA	15	16	16	14	14		9	7	11 6
	NFL FAN Q17.....				FAVORITE NFL TEAM Q19				
	Super	Fan	Casual	Eagles		Other			
Allowed	81%	76%	65%	81%		65%			
Banned	15	18	16	8		23			
DK/NA	4	6	20	11		12			

22. (If professional football super fan, fan or casual fan q17) This summer the Steelers signed Aaron Rodgers to a one-year, thirteen-point-six million dollar contract. Do you think the Steelers made the right move or the wrong move in signing Rodgers to be their starting quarterback?

	ADULTS.....								
	NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FANS Q17.....								
	AGE IN YRS.....							4YR COL	DEG
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No
Right move	44%	53%	36%	45%	47%	43%	42%	40%	46%
Wrong move	34	31	38	30	37	38	35	36	33
DK/NA	21	16	26	24	16	19	23	23	20
	AREA.....								
	WEST.....							EAST.....	
	Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central		Tot	NthEst	SthEst Philly
Right move	54%	51%	55%	55%	45%		38%	48%	33% 38%
Wrong move	32	26	35	35	33		37	40	36 35
DK/NA	14	22	10	11	22		25	13	31 27
	NFL FAN Q17.....				FAVORITE NFL TEAM Q19				
	Super	Fan	Casual	Steelers		Other			
Right move	55%	44%	40%	52%		43%			
Wrong move	39	39	29	33		35			
DK/NA	6	17	31	15		22			

23. (If college football super fan, fan or casual fan q18) Penn State and Pitt have a longstanding college football rivalry but have not played each other since 2019. How interested are you in seeing a game between Penn State and Pitt return to the schedule; very interested, somewhat interested, not so interested, or not interested at all?

ADULTS.....									
COLLEGE FOOTBALL FANS Q18.....									
AGE IN YRS.....									
4YR COL DEG									
	Tot	Men	Wom	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No
Very interested	37%	39%	33%	33%	40%	35%	38%	34%	38%
Somewhat interested	36	35	39	36	39	35	36	38	36
Not so interested	10	11	10	9	8	11	14	13	9
Not interested	15	15	16	22	14	17	12	15	16
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	1

AREA.....									
WEST.....									
EAST.....									
	Tot	NthWst	Alghny	SthWst	Central		Tot	NthEst	SthEst Philly
Very interested	45%	30%	55%	47%	33%		34%	36%	33% 34%
Somewhat interested	35	44	28	35	40		35	38	34 33
Not so interested	8	13	6	7	11		11	11	14 7
Not interested	12	14	11	11	15		18	14	19 22
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	1		2	2	- 4

COLLEGE FOOTBALL FAN Q18			
	Super	Fan	Casual
Very interested	49%	50%	27%
Somewhat interested	32	32	40
Not so interested	6	7	14
Not interested	12	11	18
DK/NA	1	-	1