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NCSU fans put Lowe on chopping block

Raleigh, N.C. – N.C. State men’s basketball coach Sidney Lowe has his team far below the NCAA tournament bubble, but there is no question his own job is on the line. Fans urged the replacement of previous coach Herb Sendek despite five straight March Madness appearances, and in the five seasons under Lowe, the school has yet to return to the big dance.

Statewide, Lowe is pretty well-liked. 30% of North Carolina college basketball fans see him favorably, and only 17% unfavorably. But that masks the fact that his team’s own fanbase is more hostile to him than those who root for the state’s other three ACC teams. Wolfpack backers give him only a 31-23 margin, compared to Tar Heels fans’ 32-15. Carolina has won 10 of 11 games against State since Lowe came onboard, and its last loss was four years ago.

Similarly, while 30% want Lowe to remain under contract next season overall, and 21% want him replaced, State fans are much more narrowly divided, only 29-27 in his favor. The plurality Carolina fans mirror the overall split, at 30-20, while Duke fans are most in favor of Lowe’s retention, 33-19. Duke is 6-2 against Lowe.

“NC State has become a pretty easy win for UNC and Duke during the Lowe era,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “So it’s not surprising those schools’ fans are more supportive of keeping Lowe as coach than his own fan base.”

First-year Wake Forest coach Jeff Bzdelik is still pretty much an unknown. 84% of people who follow one of the four teams have no opinion on him, and the rest are split 7-9. As with Lowe, Wake fans skew his numbers downward, 5-19. The team is mired at the very bottom of the ACC standings with a 1-13 conference record, 8-21 overall, a season after finishing in the middle of the pack with a winning record in Dino Gaudio’s final season.

Bzdelik will likely have a longer leash than Lowe, but even still, everyone but Carolina fans (12-5) want to get rid of him. 19% of Wake fans are ready for his ouster, while only 8% want to give him another shot, part of an overall 10-12 sentiment for his firing.

When it comes to college hoops, 35% of North Carolinians are UNC fans, 17% Duke fans, 16% State fans, 6% Wake fans, and 27% claim to follow none of these teams.

PPP surveyed 650 North Carolina voters from February 16th to 21st. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.8%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



North Carolina Survey Results

Q1	In college basketball are you a fan of UNC, NC State, Duke, or Wake Forest?	Q6	If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
	<i>UNC</i> 34%		<i>Woman</i> 52%
	<i>NC State</i> 16%		<i>Man</i> 48%
	<i>Duke</i> 17%	Q7	If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.
	<i>Wake Forest</i> 6%		<i>Democrat</i> 45%
	<i>None of these teams</i> 27%		<i>Republican</i> 37%
Q2	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sidney Lowe?		<i>Independent/Other</i> 18%
	<i>Favorable</i> 30%	Q8	If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.
	<i>Unfavorable</i> 17%		<i>White</i> 74%
	<i>Not sure</i> 53%		<i>African-American</i> 22%
Q3	Do you think Sidney Lowe should be retained for another year at the end of this season or replaced with someone else?		<i>Other</i> 5%
	<i>Should be retained for another year</i> 30%	Q9	If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.
	<i>Should be replaced with someone else</i> 21%		<i>18 to 29</i> 10%
	<i>Not sure</i> 50%		<i>30 to 45</i> 30%
Q4	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jeff Bzdelik?		<i>46 to 65</i> 40%
	<i>Favorable</i> 7%		<i>Older than 65</i> 20%
	<i>Unfavorable</i> 9%	Q10	
	<i>Not sure</i> 84%		<i>252</i> 13%
Q5	Do you think Jeff Bzdelik should be retained for another year at the end of this season or replaced with someone else?		<i>336</i> 18%
	<i>Should be retained for another year</i> 10%		<i>704</i> 20%
	<i>Should be replaced with someone else</i> 12%		<i>828</i> 15%
	<i>Not sure</i> 78%		<i>910</i> 16%
			<i>919</i> 18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Bball Fandom				
		UNC	NC State	Duke	Wake Forest	None of these teams
Bball Fandom						
UNC	34%	100%	-	-	-	-
NC State	16%	-	100%	-	-	-
Duke	17%	-	-	100%	-	-
Wake Forest	6%	-	-	-	100%	-
None of these teams	27%	-	-	-	-	100%

	Base	Bball Fandom				
		UNC	NC State	Duke	Wake Forest	
Low Favorability						
Favorable	30%	32%	31%	29%	20%	
Unfavorable	17%	15%	23%	18%	12%	
Not sure	53%	53%	45%	53%	68%	

	Base	Bball Fandom				
		UNC	NC State	Duke	Wake Forest	
Keep or Replace Lowe?						
Should be retained for another year	30%	30%	29%	33%	19%	
Should be replaced with someone else	21%	20%	27%	19%	12%	
Not sure	50%	50%	45%	48%	69%	

	Base	Bball Fandom				
		UNC	NC State	Duke	Wake Forest	
Bzdelik Favorability						
Favorable	7%	8%	5%	8%	5%	
Unfavorable	9%	4%	13%	13%	19%	
Not sure	84%	88%	82%	79%	76%	





Crosstabs

	Base	Bball Fandom			
		UNC	NC State	Duke	Wake Forest
Keep or Replace Bzdelik?					
Should be retained for another year	10%	12%	5%	10%	8%
Should be replaced with someone else	12%	5%	21%	16%	19%
Not sure	78%	83%	74%	74%	73%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bball Fandom			
UNC	34%	31%	37%
NC State	16%	14%	18%
Duke	17%	18%	16%
Wake Forest	6%	7%	6%
None of these teams	27%	30%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Low Favorability			
Favorable	30%	29%	31%
Unfavorable	17%	9%	25%
Not sure	53%	62%	43%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Keep or Replace Lowe?			
Should be retained for another year	30%	30%	29%
Should be replaced with someone else	21%	12%	29%
Not sure	50%	58%	41%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bzdelik Favorability			
Favorable	7%	6%	9%
Unfavorable	9%	5%	13%
Not sure	84%	90%	78%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Keep or Replace Bzdelik?			
Should be retained for another year	10%	8%	11%
Should be replaced with someone else	12%	8%	17%
Not sure	78%	84%	73%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bball Fandom				
UNC	34%	40%	29%	28%
NC State	16%	14%	18%	16%
Duke	17%	15%	21%	16%
Wake Forest	6%	5%	7%	6%
None of these teams	27%	26%	24%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Low Favorability				
Favorable	30%	38%	22%	28%
Unfavorable	17%	12%	21%	24%
Not sure	53%	50%	57%	48%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Keep or Replace Lowe?				
Should be retained for another year	30%	37%	21%	29%
Should be replaced with someone else	21%	17%	25%	20%
Not sure	50%	46%	53%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bzdelik Favorability				
Favorable	7%	5%	6%	16%
Unfavorable	9%	8%	11%	7%
Not sure	84%	86%	84%	77%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Keep or Replace Bzdelik?				
Should be retained for another year	10%	9%	9%	14%
Should be replaced with someone else	12%	11%	15%	10%
Not sure	78%	81%	76%	76%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bball Fandom				
UNC	34%	34%	37%	27%
NC State	16%	15%	16%	30%
Duke	17%	16%	20%	18%
Wake Forest	6%	7%	2%	7%
None of these teams	27%	28%	25%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Low Favorability				
Favorable	30%	25%	50%	26%
Unfavorable	17%	20%	10%	6%
Not sure	53%	55%	40%	68%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Keep or Replace Lowe?				
Should be retained for another year	30%	24%	51%	26%
Should be replaced with someone else	21%	24%	11%	10%
Not sure	50%	52%	39%	64%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bzdelik Favorability				
Favorable	7%	8%	5%	-
Unfavorable	9%	8%	15%	4%
Not sure	84%	84%	80%	96%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Keep or Replace Bzdelik?				
Should be retained for another year	10%	10%	10%	-
Should be replaced with someone else	12%	11%	17%	7%
Not sure	78%	79%	73%	93%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bball Fandom					
UNC	34%	40%	32%	37%	29%
NC State	16%	10%	15%	18%	16%
Duke	17%	13%	14%	19%	21%
Wake Forest	6%	3%	9%	3%	8%
None of these teams	27%	33%	30%	24%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Low Favorability					
Favorable	30%	20%	32%	34%	25%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	10%	21%	19%
Not sure	53%	65%	57%	45%	56%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Keep or Replace Lowe?					
Should be retained for another year	30%	20%	32%	30%	30%
Should be replaced with someone else	21%	20%	15%	24%	22%
Not sure	50%	60%	53%	46%	49%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bzdelik Favorability					
Favorable	7%	10%	10%	5%	6%
Unfavorable	9%	10%	7%	10%	10%
Not sure	84%	80%	83%	85%	84%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Keep or Replace Bzdelik?					
Should be retained for another year	10%	10%	10%	8%	13%
Should be replaced with someone else	12%	15%	10%	12%	14%
Not sure	78%	75%	80%	80%	73%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Bball Fandom							
UNC	34%	40%	31%	32%	38%	32%	35%
NC State	16%	12%	11%	16%	17%	16%	23%
Duke	17%	25%	17%	16%	12%	20%	15%
Wake Forest	6%	1%	17%	6%	3%	7%	2%
None of these teams	27%	22%	25%	31%	31%	25%	26%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Low Favorability							
Favorable	30%	38%	37%	20%	22%	27%	38%
Unfavorable	17%	12%	15%	12%	19%	18%	25%
Not sure	53%	50%	47%	67%	60%	55%	37%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Keep or Replace Lowe?							
Should be retained for another year	30%	36%	33%	22%	21%	28%	37%
Should be replaced with someone else	21%	17%	19%	15%	23%	23%	27%
Not sure	50%	47%	48%	62%	56%	49%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Bzdelik Favorability							
Favorable	7%	8%	12%	8%	7%	6%	2%
Unfavorable	9%	10%	14%	6%	7%	6%	11%
Not sure	84%	82%	74%	86%	87%	88%	87%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Keep or Replace Bzdelik?							
Should be retained for another year	10%	12%	12%	8%	8%	11%	7%
Should be replaced with someone else	12%	16%	16%	13%	9%	7%	12%
Not sure	78%	72%	72%	79%	84%	82%	82%

