There are less than 1,000 two-and

game.

There are less than 1,000 two-and three-letter words, which the novice tends to disregard while searching his rack for the magic bingo and its 50-point bonus.

The relative merits of long words versus short words is a common misconception umong Scrabble players. Whereas a bingo scores a lot of points in one fell swoop, and affords a greater turnover of letters, its real value is often lessened when it requires several turns of "fishing" (dumping a letter or two on the board for few points, or back in the bag, aiming for a bingo rack). Short words, on the other hand, can score 20 to 40 points instantly—and often serve the additional purpose of clearing the rack of tiles that bung up a potential seven-letter word.

In a recent study conducted by The Scrabble Players Newsletze 16.

word.

In a recent study conducted by
The Scrabble Players Newsletter, 16
games were annotated and
analysed. Even among the expertcalibre players who are more apt to
play bingos, 46 per cent of all the
points tallied were from two-, threeand four-letter words. Even:

Tricky situations

AAERSUU, and an open N permits you to play UNAU, with a rack leave of AERS — a good balance between vowels and consonants

Short & sweet

R.D.

compare it to the answers at the ent of the column. There may b several correct answers to eac play, but for the sake of unifor continuity, erase your answer at the ent of the continuity, erase your answer at the ent of the continuity, erase your answer at the ent of the continuity, erase your answer at the ent of the continuity, erase your answer at the ent of the continuity, erase your answer at the ent of the continuity, erase your answer at the ent of the continuity and the conti

SATINE D AEINST

entasia, taenias - basinet - cineast - destain, detains, instead, inted, stained

- etesian
- faines
- j - easting, catings, ingates, j
- easting, casting, ingates, j
agesta, seating, teasting
- sheitan, sthenia
- isatine
K - intakes
K - intakes
L - elastin, entails, nailset, salient, saltine, tenails
M - etamins, inmates, tameins
N - inanest
O - atonics

ACROSS THE BOARD

Seven-letter search

RACKS AND COMMENT

rack 1 AEIKLOT This is an inter have the bings No. 8)

2 DHIILMU A five-letter h word, gets rid (4.9).

Scrabble Sam Orbaum

Zarf-time

towel
After picking up vowel after
vowel.
"Eau awee, beau aalli:
Yipe, yowie and ogee:
"I've a Q with no U." he
cried, "Foul!"

MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU? (From a word collector's files:)

Sam Orbaum de, idea, ode

Strategic advantage

AN ELDERLY gentleman entered the Zahala Scrabble Club last week adaiming that he had never played a game of Scrabble in his life. The man with the jarringly familiar name of Karl Yitzhak Marx observed the first round of play, then, figuring that he had nothing to lose but a game, entered the tray himself.

Karl Marx, in his first game, played as his first word RETINAS, capilating on one of the most potent sets of the most versatile: RETINAS can be
most vers

and short

ASTIER, RATINES, RELAINSO, RETSINA, STAINER and STEARIN. The six letters of RETINA form. The six letters of real in a she conductiveness. Add an a six letter of the alphabet may be a six letters of the alphabet may be the 26 letters of the alphabet may be the 26 letters of the alphabet may be the 26 letters of the alphabet may be a six letters of the alphabet may be a six letters of high frequency. RETINA is a combination of six letters of high frequency. RETINAE (or TRAINEE) is mathematically the most probable of the Scrabble dictionary, occurring meth an approximate frequency of once in 13,870 random draws. That may seem like too much of a long shot as a sproximate frequency of once in 13,870 random draws. That may seem like too much of a long shot as a service of the six letters of the six

bingo-root you st. for. SATINE is rat tent of the more the researched by co. Scrabble Players

Scrabble Players
SATINE on your
whopping 96 per co
seventh letter givin,
for of the 94 tiles i

High-bingo

SCRABBLE Sam Orbaum

IF, FOR EXAMPLE, you are looking at a rack of AAINRTX, you should detect the makings of a bingo-potent racker, ead and you are look of a good score, and you are look of a good score and you are look of a good score and you are look of a good score and is a major difference between a good Scrabbe player and a great one.

Studying the RETINA list—and others like it—will help you recording the previously you might only have seen a rack full of impotent one-point tiles. The iner might be plassed



F, H, K,M,P,W,Y, — that can contribute more to raising your average score than anything else. Why these particular letters? All are valued at three to five points.

understood what approach he must take. Ed was looking to score points with what he had in his racks, and did not give much consideration to what surplus letters the next rack would inherit. With the letters AAACOBM, Ed at once notices with the state of the state of

diagram.

If you don't spot a play that substantially improves your rack, your score or your position on the board, don't hesitate to "waste" a turn to exchange letters.

exchange letters.

If for several games running your opening plays are words such as EQUINOX and JANIZARY, and your opponent calls you.

A similar challenge in the down the first syllable according with the first syllable according to the condition of the condit

WORD

Sam Orbaum discusses the art of scoring.





on the board, the board the only letters playable before ANA).

Spots for your tiles include JARL (3 D-G) for 32 points, AW (10 1-J) for 27 and a number of plays placing the S on D7 or M2. Four letters remain in the bag.

Incidentally, it worked. I got the second blank, bingoed, and the bingoed vet again. Down but no out, I felt a little like John Wayne

Diagram snalysis

Vou must prevent the bingo whether you lead by 80 or trail by 30. LI (10 B-C) is the best block, slightly better than TI (TI could give your opponent an eight-letter bingo with the common NT common III or the state of the