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OVER 300 WORD EXPERTS TO COMPETE FOR \$10,000 FIRST PRIZE AT NATIONAL SCRABBLE® CHAMPIONSHIP IN DALLAS AUGUST 7-11TH.

Dallas, TX – They say everything is bigger in Texas and on August 7th over 300 people with some of the largest vocabularies in the world will gather at the 2010 National SCRABBLE® Championship (NSC) at the Hotel InterContinental Dallas. These word wizards will come from 41 states and 4 countries and range from School SCRABBLE prodigies to multiple National and World SCRABBLE® champions.

Sponsored in part by Hasbro, manufacturer of the game, first prize is \$10,000, but it's about more than money for these competitors. "About 40 million people play the SCRABBLE game on a leisurely basis, however SCRABBLE is a lifestyle for our competitors," says Chris Cree, a veteran top expert and co-president of the North American SCRABBLE® Players Association (NASPA), organizers of this year's event. There are 200 official SCRABBLE tournaments every year that are overseen by NASPA. Players at the highest level memorize the 120,000 word *Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary* and often devote several hours a day to studying.

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All the competitors know that the championship will be a marathon, not a sprint. There is no elimination, and everyone plays a staggering 31 games over four and a half days. SCRABBLE experts and enthusiasts everywhere are encouraged to follow the live online coverage at www.scrabbleplayers.org. The website has received over 6 million hits during previous Nationals.

The defending champion is Dave Wiegand, a mortgage underwriter from Portland, OR. Wiegand also won the 2005 National SCRABBLE® Championship in Reno, NV.

Recently Edward De Guzman, a research and development professional from San Francisco, set a new record for highest game score in an officially sanctioned SCRABBLE tournament. De Guzman scored a whopping 771 points, beating the previous record by one point.

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