

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC - SUMMER - 2014 - (LAS VAGAS 7)

Dir: East Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ KJ107 ♥ KQ105 ♦ KQ ♣ 954		West	North	East	South
			--	--	1 Club	X
			Pass	2 Club	Pass	2 Spade
			Pass	4 Spade	All Pass	
WEST ♠ 82 ♥ 932 ♦ 97653 ♣ 752		EAST ♠ Q94 ♥ J76 ♦ 842 ♣ AKQJ	Opening Lead = ♣2.			
	SOUTH ♠ A653 ♥ A84 ♦ AJ10 ♣ 1063					

Bidding commentary: North's 2♣ response to partner's takeout double is the strongest he could make. It typically shows 12 or more highcard Points and usually results in a game contract, as in the diagram.

There is an exception to the 12-point rule for making a cuebid in response to a takeout double. It occurs when responder has two four-card majors and 9-11 HCP. Responder (also known as "advancer") cuebids, but when partner bids a major, advancer makes an invitational raise to the three level. This bid is not forcing.

Lead commentary: When leading partner's unsupported suit, lead low from any three or four cards lacking the ace or an honor sequence. Leading high indicates shortness.

Defensive commentary: As West, it doesn't look at all as if you are going to be the hero on this hand, but you are! Patience.

Further defensive commentary: As East, after cashing three clubs, you should realize that South must have the missing three aces to justify the vulnerable takeout double. Furthermore, given the strength of the dummy, South knows you must have the ♠Q to have an opening bid.

Knowing that, do you have any chance to defeat this contract? Yes! When there are no tricks coming for the side suits, think ruff-sluff.

If you lead a fourth club and partner has the ♠8 and plays it, dummy will overruff with the 10. But suddenly your ♠Q 9 4 will provide a certain trump trick. Your 9 has been promoted to the setting trick. All you have to do is cover the jack if it is led.

Further defensive Commentary: You see, West, you were the hero as long as you stuck in that ♠8 at trick four. Instead of being discouraged at holding a bad hand, remain alert for a chance to help partner defeat the contract.