

THINKING BRIDGE - - By **Eddie Kantar**
 (From - NABC -SPRING 2013 - ST. LOUIS - 10)

Responding to an overcall, reading the lead and third-hand play

Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 8 6 ♥ 9 4 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ K 9 8 7 6 3		West	North	East	South
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			1 Spade	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass
WEST ♠ Q J 10 9 7 ♥ A J 10 5 ♦ 7 6 ♣ 4 2		EAST ♠ A K 4 3 ♥ Q ♦ Q J 10 3 2 ♣ Q J 10	Opening Lead = ♥ 9.			
	SOUTH ♠ 5 2 ♥ K 8 7 6 3 2 ♦ A K 9 ♣ A 5					

Bidding commentary: As West, you have a minimum for a one level overcall. As East, 16 support points (not counting the ♥Q) facing a one- level overcall “usually” produces game.

Defensive commentary: As South, decide what partner’s is leading from to determine what declarer has in the suit. The lead is a likely top of a doubleton. With 9 x x (x) in an unsupported suit, partner leads low. If partner has a doubleton, declarer has the ♥A J 10 x. If you cover, declarer will eventually be able to discard two clubs from dummy on the ♥J 10. If partner has the ♣K, your cover costs a club trick, the setting trick!

When partner’s lead shows no honor cards, dummy has a singleton honor, and you have a higher honor than dummy, cover if you can promote a second or third round trick for yourself. For example, cover holding the ♥K J x x x or the ♥K 10 x x x. If you can’t promote at least a third-round trick, play low.

Play commentary: As West, If South covers the ♥Q, blow him a kiss, draw trumps, and discard two clubs on the ♥J and ♥10 of hearts. Instead of losing two clubs, you lose only one and bag a miracle game.

Defensive commentary #2: As North, give count (♦4 to show an odd number) when a diamond is played. As South, make sure you take four tricks in the minors, assuming you have played low at trick one. Partner needs the ♣K to defeat the contract and you know two diamonds are cashing.

You know this because partner’s ♦4 shows an odd number of diamonds. It can’t be five because declarer would be void in that case, so it must be three.