

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -FALL 2009-SAN DIEGO -9)

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

Bidding commentary: West's 3♥ overall is weak. The most descriptive weak jump overcalls are those that have strong suits with little or nothing on the side. Also, at this vulnerability, one can cheat a card and have a strong six-card suit to jump to the three level. North has a choice of responses. He can cue bid 4♥ to show a strong spade raise or simply jump to 4♠. 4♠ is also a possible response. These are the problems that preemptive jump overcalls present. A word to the wise: opponents hate to hear preempts.

Defensive commentary: East starts a high-low in hearts and West continues with the ♥K and ♥Q, dummy ruffing the third heart with the ♠9.

Defensive commentary #2: As East, before overruffing a relatively high spot card or even an honor with a strong trump holding of your own, ask yourself how many trump tricks you will take if you overruff and how many you will take if you don't overruff? In this case, if you overruff and partner shows out on the ♠K, declarer will have an easy time finessing you out of your remaining honor. Even if partner follows to the first spade, declarer may take the spade finesse, playing your partner for short spades. If you don't overruff, discarding a diamond instead, you are slated to take two trump tricks. When declarer plays the king and then the 10, you cover. Declarer wins the ace and you remain with the Q-7 and declarer remains with the 8-6-4-3. That's two trump tricks. Overruffing an honor with an honor (or its equivalent ♠9 or ♠10) is almost always a losing play when holding a trump honor with length along with a relatively strong intermediate spot. Something like: A-10-x-(x), K-10-x-(x) A-9-x-(x), K-9-x-(x), Q-9-x-x or substitute the 8 for the 9.