

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -SPRING -2010 -RENO-NV-(9)

Dir: South Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ Q J 10 8 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ A 8 3 2 ♣ J 10		West	North	East	South
						2 Club
			Pass	2 Diamond	Pass	2 Spade
			Pass	3 Spade	Pass	4NT
			Pass	5 Diamond	X	5 NT
			Pass	6 Club	Pass	6 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 4 ♥ K J 10 8 ♦ J 7 6 5 ♣ 8 6 4 3		EAST ♠ 5 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ K Q 9 4 ♣ Q 9 7 5 2	Opening Lead = ♦ 5			
	SOUTH ♠ A K 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ 10 ♣ A K					

Bidding commentary: After South's strong, artificial 2♣ opening and North's 2♦ waiting response, the raise to 3♠ is constructive. With a weak supporting hand (no ace, no king, no singleton), North jumps to 4♠. When North shows one ace in response to Blackwood, East is alert enough to double. The double of an artificial bid (Stayman, transfers, Blackwood responses) is a lead-directing double. At this level, length is not an issue, strength in the suit is South brushes this aside and asks for kings via 5NT. If North has one king it should be the ♥K given East's double of 5♦. If so, South can count 13 tricks and bid 7NT.

Lead commentary: Partner has asked for a diamond lead. Give partner a diamond lead.

Play commentary: As South, your only losers are in hearts. With losers in one suit and much trumps on both sides, save hearts until last and think strip and endplay. The idea is to strip the minors from both hands, ending in dummy before leading a heart. Win the ♦A, ruff a diamond high, enter dummy with a trump, ruff a second diamond high, back to dummy with a trump and ruff dummy's last diamond. After cashing the ♣A and ♣K, both minors are stripped. Return to dummy with a trump, leaving one trump in each hand (a must) and lead a heart. If East plays low, insert the 9. West wins the 10 but is end played A heart goes into the A-Q while a ruff and sluff club return fares no better. If East happens to play the ♥10 or ♥J on the first heart play, cover gently with the queen. West wins, but the A-9 take the last two heart tricks. That ♥9 is a huge card.