

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Summer 2007 - Nashville, TN -Eddie Kantar 4)

Dir: South Vul: None	NORTH ♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ A K J 6 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 10 4		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Diamond
			Pass	1 Heart	Pass	3 Diamond
			Pass	3 Spade	Pass	4 Spade
			Pass	5 Diamond	All Pass	
WEST ♠ Q 6 2 ♥ 9 8 4 3 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A Q 8 6	23 rd July 2007	EAST ♠ 9 8 7 ♥ Q 10 5 ♦ 9 6 ♣ K 7 5 3 2	Opening Lead = ♣A			
	SOUTH ♠ A J 10 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K Q J 10 8 ♣ J 9					

Bidding commentary: North bids 3♠, hoping South can bid 3NT. South is allowed to raise a second suit with only three cards because South has previously denied four spades with the 3♦ rebid. The raise to 4♠ shows three strong spades. North's spades are relatively weak, so North decides to play in a contract with nine trumps as opposed to seven.

Lead commentary: Eskimos in Alaska know that neither North nor South has a club stopper. If North had one, he would have bid 3NT over 3♦. If South had one, he would have bid 3NT over 3♠. It doesn't matter what West has in clubs, a club lead is automatic given this revealing sequence.

Defensive commentary: If West wins the second club, he should exit passively with a diamond or a heart. If East wins the second club, the only safe exit is a diamond. Sometimes you have to sit back and wait for the setting trick and not break a suit (spades) that could cost a trick.

Play commentary: Declarer needs to take the rest of the tricks and has a choice of several finesses. There is the heart finesse or the spade finesse in either direction. To maximize chances, declarer draws trumps and plays the ♥A and ♥K, then ruffs a heart. If the queen falls (it does), South's spade problems are over. A spade can be discarded on the ♥J. If the ♥Q doesn't drop, South has to guess spades. A good play is to lead the ♠J. If West covers, South's problems are over. If West ducks smoothly, South might decide to rise with the ♠K and play East for the ♠Q.