

N A B C SUMMER 2009 – WASHINGTON DC

Thinking bridge (5) - By Eddie Kantar

Dealer North Vul Both	♠ AQ ♥ J 6 4 3 ♦ AK 9 8 ♣ 7 5 2		WEST Pass All Pass	NORTH 1 Diamond 2 Heart	EAST Pass Pass	SOUTH 1 Heart 4 Heart
♠ J 9 8 3 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ A J 8		♠ K 10 6 5 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ K 10 6 4				
	♠ 7 4 ♥ A K Q 10 5 ♦ Q J 10 ♣ Q 9 3		Opening Lead : ♠3			

Bidding commentary: Notice North's raise to 2♥, not 3♥. **No opening hand divided 4-4-3-2 that is not strong enough to open 1NT is strong enough to give partner a jump raise.** North has a maximum raise to 2♥ – period.

Lead commentary: When there are two unbid suits, the general rule is to lead from the one that does not have the ace. If neither has the ace, lead from the stronger.

Defensive commentary: If declarer takes the spade finesse at trick one, East wins and, seeing potentially threatening diamonds in dummy, should shift to a low club, promising a high honor. If declarer inserts the ♠9, West wins the jack and plays the ♠A and a club to East's king to defeat the contract one trick.

Play commentary: Play commentary: Woe to the declarer who does not count sure tricks (winners) before playing to trick one. South has 10 top tricks: one spade, five hearts and four diamonds. Taking the spade finesse at trick one represents an unnecessary risk. For the sake of an overtrick, it puts the contract in jeopardy. Playing tournament bridge, where overtricks are important, declarer has a problem.