

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From – NABC-SPRING-2009-HOUSTON-3)

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

Bidding commentary: The proper opening bid with North's distribution is 1♦. Also, it is a bit better to rebid 2♣ over the expected 1♠ response with a low singleton in spades as opposed to 1NT. Rebidding 1NT with a low singleton in partner's suit is misleading. A singleton king or ace is okay, but partner expects at least two spades. South's rebid shows six, not five, spades, along with 6-9 HCP. North should subtract a point (or two!) for a singleton in partner's main suit (it only hurts for a little while) and pass 2♠ like a flash. A 2NT rebid in this sequence with a singleton in partner's suit and no long suit of one's own shows 16-17 high-card points, minimum.

Lead commentary: The unbid suit is usually a wise choice of opening leads. Don't even think of leading a trump when the auction indicates a misfit by the opponents.

Defensive commentary: East does best to win with the ♥K at trick one, following with the ace and another heart, South ruffing. Declarer will probably enter dummy with a club and lead a spade to the king. At this point the contract can be beaten. If West wins and plays a fourth heart (or cashes the ♦A and leads a fourth heart), East has to come through and uppercut with the ♠10 (key play). Now declarer loses three spade tricks (check it out) along with two hearts and a diamond for down one. If East neglects to ruff high, declarer loses only two spades and makes the contract.