

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar >> defense - part 4
 (From - NABC Spring- 2015 - New Orleans bul 4)

Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH ♠ 98764 ♥ KQ ♦ KQ73 ♣ 94		West	North	East	South
			--	Pass	Pass	1 Heart
			Pass	1 Spade	Pass	2 Diamond
			Pass	3 Diamond	Pass	3 NT
			All pass			
WEST ♠ Q53 ♥ 1065 ♦ 1064 ♣ Q1062		EAST ♠ AJ102 ♥ 982 ♦ J5 ♣ A873	Opening Lead = ♣2			
	SOUTH ♠ K ♥ AJ743 ♦ A982 ♣ KJ5					

Bidding commentary: Normal. Granted, it is tempting for North to bid 3♥ over 2♦, but the bid promises three hearts. South should resist the temptation of leaping to 2NT after the 1♠ response with only 16 high-card points. The bid shows 18-19. South's 2♦ rebid is not forcing, but can conceal as many as 17-18 points. The 3NT bid is obvious.

Defensive commentary: South has nine red cards and figures to have nine red-suit tricks once on lead. The lead of the ♣2 shows a four-card suit, indicating South has three clubs and only one spade. No matter what that spade is, you can take four spade tricks by leading the ace and then a low spade. Incidentally, if your spades were the Q-J-10-2, you should shift to the ♠2, to cater to declarer's having the singleton king. If you lead the queen, you can take only three spade tricks.

Play Commentary: As South, if East returns a club at trick two, don't look a gift horse in the mouth. Win the ♠K and take your 10 tricks before they wake up and switch to a spade.