

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: The proper opening bid with this 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 one notrump 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 highcard 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 shows the opponents are in a misfit.

Defensive commentary: West leads a heart, and East does best to win the king, cash the ace and continue with a third heart, ruffed by declarer. South 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 uppercut, declarer loses only two spades and makes the contract.