

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC FALL 2006 HONOLULU-HAWAII 23-11-2012 -7)

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

Bidding commentary: : Facing a passed hand, South should forget about slam and simply bid 4♠. South needs very little in partner's hand to make 4♠. A good partner will have what you need. If partner doesn't have it, it's partner's fault.

Lead commentary: They don't come any more obvious than this.

Play commentary: This deal exemplifies the type of overview declarer must take before playing to the first trick. Ostensibly, there are three losers two diamonds and a spade. But the bidding and the opening lead must be considered as well. It is clear that the opening lead is a singleton. It is also clear that when East gets in with the ♠A, East can and will give partner a heart ruff. The ruff, along with the ♦A K, spells down one. However, declarer has a counter: Win the ♥K and discard the ♥A on the ♣A! Applause. Goodbye, heart ruff. Declarer winds up losing two diamonds and a spade.

When playing a contract that looks relatively easy, be sure to ask yourself if anything can go wrong (Murphy's Law). If there is some danger, ask yourself if there is any way to overcome it. You have to do this kind of thinking early. Later may be too late