

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: As North, your 3♥ cuebid, showing a limit raise in spades or better, assumes that a jump to 3♠ in competition is preemptive. Most players now play that any jump raise in competition is preemptive. Partner assumes a limit raise for the time being. As South, if you would have accepted a limit raise (you would), bid 4♠ over 3♥. If you wouldn't have accepted a limit raise, sign off at 3♠.

Defensive commentary: As East, start a highlow with the ♥J at trick one. As West, the ♥J shows a singleton or doubleton. Continue with the ♥K. As it happens, the ♥J was from a doubleton and now the ♥Q in dummy is an established winner. In order to kill the ♥Q before trumps are drawn, lead a third heart. East ruffs the third heart with the ♠9.

Play commentary: As South, do not overruff the ♠9! It is safer to discard your inevitable diamond loser. If East has ruffed with the singleton 9 (possible) and you overruff, you will wind up losing a trump trick to West – a trick you do not have to lose. Worse, you will go down, losing two hearts, a spade and a diamond. However, if you discard a diamond at trick three, you take the next 10 tricks. Making four.

As a defender, when you have established a trick in dummy upon which declarer, now void in the suit, can take a discard (♥Q) and partner is also void in the suit, lead the suit while partner still has a trump to play to kill the discard.

As declarer, if faced with the choice of overruffing a spot card with an honor card (the ♠9 with the ♠Q) that may weaken your trump holding, discard a sure loser instead if you have one