

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
 (From - NABC -Spring 2007 - St Louis (2))

Dir: West Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ A 9 8 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K J 10 6 ♣ K 8 5 4		West	North	East	South
			1 Heart	X	Pass	2 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ Q J 4 ♥ A J 8 6 4 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ 10 9	10-03-2007	EAST ♠ 10 7 5 3 ♥ K 9 2 ♦ Q 8 7 ♣ 6 3 2	Opening Lead = ♥6.			
	SOUTH ♠ K 6 ♥ Q 10 7 3 ♦ 9 5 4 ♣ A Q J 7					

Bidding commentary: North has a minimum takeout double, but ideal distribution. East, flat as a pancake and vulnerable to boot, is not quite strong enough to raise to 2♥. South's jump to 2NT shows 10-12 high-card points and is not forcing. North passes with the speed of summer lightning

Defensive commentary: East rises with the ♥K and returns the ♥9, the higher of two remaining cards. South covers with the ♥10, West wins the jack and shifts to a club, not playing the ♥A (key non-play). West knows from the return of the ♥9 that South remains with the guarded queen. West must hope that East can get in to lead another heart (if he has one!) If East has no outside entry, the contract cannot be defeated.

Play commentary: If West shifts to the ♣10 at trick three, South does best to cash four clubs and force some discards. There are too many variations to discuss, but forcing discards on touchy deals, if it doesn't compromise entry problems, is usually a good way to start.

Opponents hate to make discard after discard, don't you?