

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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Dir: South Vul: None	NORTH ♠ — ♥ A Q 8 7 4 2 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ A K 6 5		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Heart
			4 Spade	6 Heart	All Pass	
WEST ♠ Q J 10 9 7 5 3 2 ♥ — ♦ K J 2 ♣ Q 9		EAST ♠ A 8 6 ♥ 6 5 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ J 10 7 4 2	Opening Lead = ♠ Q			
	SOUTH ♠ K 4 ♥ K J 10 9 3 ♦ A Q 6 5 ♣ 8 3					

Bidding commentary: West's 4♠ overcall is the equivalent of a 4♠ opening bid. Facing a non passed partner, it is preemptive, typically with an eight-card suit along with less than opening-bid values. North can cuebid 5♠, a grand slam try, or gamble that partner has something in diamonds and Bid 6♥.

North reasons that if West has strong spades, South figures to have outside strength, surely with something in diamonds.

Lead commentary: The opening lead is normal, though it doesn't work out very well on this occasion.

Play commentary: As declarer, you should recognize this position: A suit has been led in which dummy is void and you have the guarded king. You can ruff the opening lead in dummy and not lose a trick in the suit that has been led, but you may lose two tricks in another suit (diamonds) if West has the ♦K. If you discard a diamond from dummy at trick one, however, East will win the ace and probably return a diamond. You win the ♦A, draw trump and discard dummy's remaining diamond on the ♠K. Instead of losing no spade tricks and possibly two diamond tricks, you lose one spade and zero diamond tricks. A wonderful trade off.

Play commentary #2: This type of loser on loser play can also be used when declarer has QJ-x-(x) facing a void along with at least one slow side suit loser. Assuming a low card is led, a loser is discarded from dummy and the trick is lost. Later, the queen is led and, whether the opening leader has the remaining honor and covers or not, declarer can get rid of that second loser.