

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -Spring 2012 - Detroit Michigan 4)

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

Bidding commentary: After North cuebids the ♥A, South decides to give up on a grand slam as it is tough to discover if partner has both black queens.

Defensive commentary: In spite of the heart cuebid, East's powerful heart sequence warrants a heart lead

Play commentary: With a certain club loser, South needs to find East with the ♠Q, so the ♠J is led from dummy at trick two.

Defensive commentary #2: As East in second seat, do not cover the jack! When dummy has two equal honors, *cover the second equal, not the first*. Notice the difference. If the jack is covered, declarer wins, crosses back to the 10, sees West show out and leads a low spade to the 8. You take zero spade tricks. If you duck the jack, but cover the 10, declarer wins, partner shows out, but declarer cannot get back to dummy to finesse you out of your ♠9 4. Success! You wind up with a spade and a club trick.

As second hand, when dummy has a number of equal honors, cover the last equal. This is an important defensive principle