

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Summer - 2015 - Chicago - Illinois 4)

Using the bidding as a guide to the play and defense

Dir: East Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ AJ ♥ KJ106 ♦ 87 ♣ AKQJ8		West	North	East	South
			--	--	1 Diamond	{ass
			Pass	X	Pass	1 NT
			Pass	3 NT	All Pass	
WEST ♠ 85432 ♥ 9832 ♦ 1093 ♣ 6		EAST ♠ Q107 ♥ A7 ♦ KQJ65 ♣ 954	Opening Lead = ♦10			
	SOUTH ♠ K96 ♥ Q54 ♦ A42 ♣ 10732					

Bidding Commentary: Nothing unusual.

Lead Commentary: Normal. With 10-9-x-x, West would lead low.

Play Commentary: After winning the third diamond, you know that East remains with two winning diamonds.

Translation: You can't afford to drive out the ♥A or take a spade finesse to set up your ninth trick as East must hold both of those cards to get up to 12 HCP and an opening bid. There is still a chance. You can apply immediate pressure if you race off five rounds of clubs, discarding a heart from your hand.

Look at the East hand. East has to make two discards. The first, a heart, is easy, but what about the second? East cannot afford to discard a diamond lest you set up your ninth trick in hearts. East does best to discard a spade and hope partner has the ♠9. Not this time. After the spade discard, you can play the ♠A and the ♠J to the queen and king. Your ♠9 is your ninth trick.

Tip: Never overlook the possibility of running a long suit when you cannot afford to give up the lead. A defender may have too much strength for his own good.