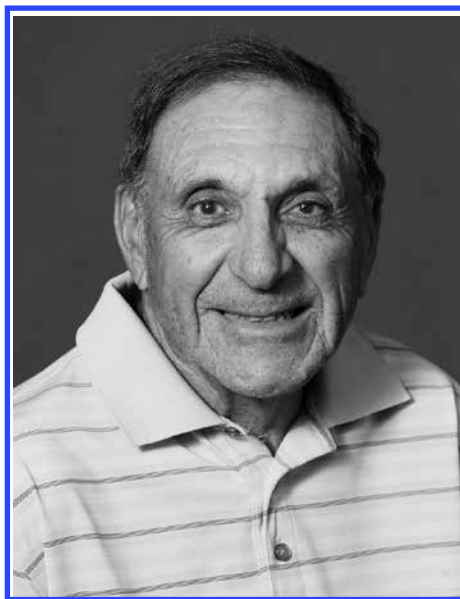


**NABC - Summer 2018 - Atlanta**  
**Thinking bridge By Eddie Kantar -4**



The first trick. Taking charge

Dir: South				♠ 10 5 4			
Vul: Both				♥ 9 2			
				♦ A K Q			
				♣ K J 7 5 3			
♠ 7 6				♠ 9 8 2			
♥ K Q 5 4				♥ A 10 8 3			
♦ 9 7 4				♦ 10 8 6 3 2			
♣ 10 9 6 2				♣ A			
		♠ A K Q J 3					
		♥ J 7 6					
		♦ J 5					
		♣ Q 8 4					
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>			<i>South</i>		
					1♠		
Pass	2♣	Pass			2♠		
Pass	4♠	All Pass					
<b>Opening lead: ♥K</b>							

**Bidding commentary:** As South, treat a solid five-card major suit as a six-card suit and bid accordingly.

**Defensive commentary:** As East, avoid the common defensive error of signaling interest or disinterest in the suit partner has led (♥K) before looking at the rest of the hand. Here you have the blank ♣A and would like a club ruff. You can get it but you must overtake the ♥K, cash the ♣A, exit a heart to partner's queen, and ruff the club return. Down one. If you look only at hearts, you are apt to signal

en-couragement to show the ace. Once partner continues a heart, goodbye club ruff, goodbye defeating 4♠. The lesson to be learned here is that third hand should take a moment to get an overview of the deal, not just the suit partner has led, before playing to the first trick.