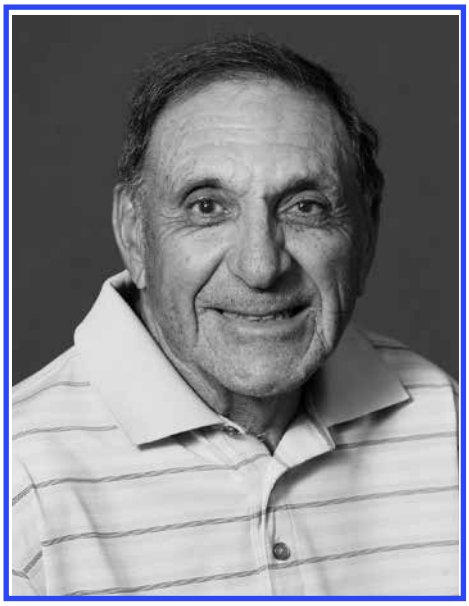
NABC - Summer 2018 - Atlanta

Thinking bridge By Eddie Kantar -10



Weak jump overcall. The surrounding play

Dlr: West	♠ 7 2 ♥ K 8 5 4 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ Q 5 4 2	
♠ Q J 5 4 3 ♥ Q 7 ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ A J 6		♠ A K 10 8 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q J 9 2 ♣ 9 7 3
Vul: N-S	♠ 9 6 ♥ A J 10 9 6 3 ♦ 5 3 ♣ K 10 8	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
Pass	Pass	1♦	2♥
2♠	3♥	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥4

Bidding commentary: As South, your 2 H* jump overcall is equivalent to an opening weak two-bid. As North, you have enough to give partner a single raise. As East, you are too strong to raise to 3♠. You have a side-suit singleton, phenomenal trump support plus a strong side suit. Please.

Defensive commentary: As South, you should recognize this dummy type – one with a powerful side suit plus strong trump support. Defensive tricks must be taken or established quickly. Clearly clubs is the suit to attack. The question is: which club to lead? When the dummy to the right has the 9-x-x-(x) and you have the Q-10-8-(x) or the K-10-8-(x), you have the 9 surrounded with the 10-8 plus a higher unequal honor, the ingredients for a "surrounding" play. Attack with the 10, the higher of the two surrounding cards and the only card in your hand that defeats the contract. Your lead establishes two club tricks before the ♦A can be driven out. Assuming West covers with the ♣J (best), North wins and returns a club. You remain with the ♣K 8 over dummy's ♣9 7. By covering the 7 with the 9 and the 9 with the king, you drive out declarer's ace while retaining a club winner. When partner gets in with the ♦A, a club return defeats the contract. If you lead the ♣8, declarer plays low, partner wins the queen, but declarer remains with the A-J hovering over your king. Leading the king doesn't work either. Declarer wins the ace, draws trumps and drives out the ♦A, all the while retaining a club stopper.

Other surrounding plays to be on the lookout for are: (1) leading the J from the AJ9(x) or the KJ9(x) when dummy to the right has the 10-x-(x); (2) leading the Q from A-Q-10-(x) when dummy to the right has the J-x-(x).