

Thinking bridge NABC summer 2019 Las Vegas

By Eddie Kantar -3

<i>North (Dummy)</i>	
♠ Q 10 3 2	
♥ K 6 5	
♦ A Q 7	
♣ Q 6 5	
<i>South (You)</i>	
♠ A K J 8 7 5	
♥ A Q 3	
♦ 5	
♣ A 7 3	

Wild horses can't keep you out of 6♠ after partner opens 1♣ and then raises spades. West leads the ♥J. Plan the play.

With 11 top tricks, you have two chances for a 12th trick: the diamond finesse, needing West to have the king, or leading up to the ♣Q, also needing West to have the king.

Question: Which finesse to take first?

Answer: The one that “keeps you alive” even if it loses.

If you take the diamond finesse and it loses, you are down even if West has the ♣K.

If you lead up to the ♣Q and it loses to East's king, you can still make the hand if West has the ♦K.

So draw trumps, strip hearts ending in your hand, and lead a low club to the queen. You have a 75% chance of making this contract needing one of two finesses.

<i>North (Dummy)</i>	
♠ Q 10 3 2	
♥ K 6 5	
♦ A Q 7	
♣ Q 6 5	
♠ 4	♠ 9 6
♥ J 10 9 7	♥ 8 4 2
♦ J 9 6 4 2	♦ K 10 8 3
♣ K J 8	♣ 10 9 4 2
<i>South (You)</i>	
♠ A K J 8 7 5	
♥ A Q 3	
♦ 5	
♣ A 7 3	