

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0428:
"Does the 'Rule of 7' 'Holdup Play'
Also Sometimes Work When You as Declarer
Are Playing a Suit Contract?"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

About Richard Pavlicek

Richard Pavlicek (1945-) has won **11** North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting **3** straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982-84, and again in 1990. He won the 1973 inaugural Grand National Teams tournament and repeated a win there in 1997. He has written or co-authored several bridge books, including with co-author William S. Root their 1981 book, Modern Bridge Conventions. From 1984 until 1990 Pavlicek was the Bridge Columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Esther particularly likes the Bridge Simulation Studies presented on his bridge website:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpsi.htm>

and his re-posts of his newspaper bridge columns:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpco.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 7/29/84 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Holdups Not Just for Notrump".

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

Vul: **E/W**

NORTH (10)

S: A Q 6 4 3

H: T 8

D: J 9

C: K J 9 3

WEST (4)

S: J T 7

H: J 5

D: Q T 7 5 3

C: 8 7 5

EAST (12)

S: K 9 8

H: 9 4 2

D: K 8 6

C: A Q 6 2

SOUTH (22)

S: 5 2

H: A K Q 7 6 3

D: A 4 2

C: T 4

Bidding

SOUTH

WEST

NORTH

EAST

1**H**

PASS

1**S**

PASS

2**H***

PASS

3**H****

PASS

4**H**

PASS

PASS

PASS

*"Partner, I hold 6 Hearts."

**"Partner, I hold 2 Hearts and a Heart Game contract is doable."

On Trick #1 WEST naturally leads his Diamond 5 as 4th from the "top" of his "longest" Suit that does not hold "touching" Honors in an unbroken sequence. EAST plays his Diamond King.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What features of the NORTH Dummy must Declarer SOUTH see?
3. On Trick #1 what card should Declarer SOUTH play from his own "closed" (hidden) Hand?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0428_a1.pdf