

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0435:
"Bridge Bidding Challenges and
As Declarer Playing a 5^D DOUBLED Contract
Can a Bridge '*Holdup Play*' Help You?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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

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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/rpc.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 4/20/86 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Unusual Holdup". This is a "Real Deal" Board played in an ACBL Swiss Teams Regional tournament. The Declarer SOUTH was Steve Altus, then a 16 year old from Tampa.

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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: **NORTH**

Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (16)

S: A 8 3

H: K J T 9 5 3

D: K Q

C: K T

WEST (4)

S: T 6

H: 8 7 6 4 2

D: 8 7 5 3 2

C: A

EAST (13)

S: K Q J 9 5

H: A Q

D: J T 9 6 4

C: 7

SOUTH (7)

S: 7 4 2

H: --

D: A

C: Q J 9 8 6 5 4 3 2

Bidding

NORTH

1**H**

EAST

1**S**

SOUTH

???

WEST

On Trick #1 WEST led the Spade Ten, his "top" Spade card in Partner EAST's bid Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed Declarer SOUTH can see that N/S together hold $2 + 9 = 11$ Trump Clubs. What is the probability of SOUTH holding a Suit containing 9 cards?
2. SOUTH holds a mere 7 HCPs. Surely SOUTH should PASS at his 1st turn to bid within the auction? What should SOUTH bid at his 1st turn?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0435 a1.pdf>