

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0438:
"As Declarer After You Sluff 'Losers'
More Discards in the Same Suit
Can Bring Your Downfall!"**

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/rpc.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 9/27/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Too Many Discards Brings Downfall". This is a "Real Deal" Board played in a Golden Anniversary Pairs competition during the 1980's.

© 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: **WEST**

Vul: **E/W**

NORTH (17)

S: A Q T 6

H: 3 2

D: A K Q 8

C: Q 9 4

WEST (8)

S: J 7 3

H: Q T 9

D: J 9 7 2

C: A 8 2

EAST (7)

S: K 4 2

H: A 4

D: T 6 5 4 3

C: T 7 3

SOUTH (8)

S: 9 8 5

H: K J 8 7 6 5

D: --

C: K J 6 5

Bidding

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

PASS

1**NT**

PASS

4**H**

PASS

PASS

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST led the Spade 3 because Spades are the unbid Major. As Pavlicek notes, leading an unbid Major is "a good standby when a hand contains no attractive lead."

1. After the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" should Declarer SOUTH see?

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

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0438 a1.pdf>