

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0439:
**"A *Small* Slam Contract Set in the '*Wrong*' Suit
Fails While a *Grand* Slam Contract
Set in the '*Right*' Suit Succeeds!"**

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 10/25/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Small Slam Fails But Grand Makes". This is a "Real Deal" Board played by Michael Seamon and Bill Passell in a Knockout Teams competition in the Jacksonville Regionals in 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: **SOUTH**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (18)

S: K 6 4 3

H: --

D: A K Q J

C: K Q 7 5 4

WEST (5)

S: Q 9 7 5

H: K 9 7 2

D: T 9 3

C: 8 2

EAST (4)

S: T

H: A T 8 6 4 3

D: 8 7 6 2

C: 9 3

SOUTH (13)

S: A J 8 2

H: Q J 5

D: 5 4

C: A J T 6

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 C	PASS	1 D	PASS
1 S	PASS	3 H*	DBL
PASS	PASS	4 C	PASS
4 S	PASS	4 NT	PASS
5 H**	PASS	7 C	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*This is a "**Splinter Bid**"² that says, "Partner, I am either void in Hearts or I hold a singleton Heart 'loser'."

**"Partner, I hold 2 Aces."

1. At another table N/S instead bid a 6**S** small slam contract thinking that a 6-level bid was "safer" than a 7-level contract. Would a 6**S** N/S contract have been better than a 7**C** N/S contract?

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0439_a1.pdf

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see: "'Splinter' Bids by Responder or Opener Showing a Singleton 'Loser' or Void and Inviting a Possible Slam Bid":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/splinter.pdf>