

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0446:
"When as Declarer You Are Playing a
5D Contract Holding 0 HCPs and
Your Partnership Has Only 8 Trump Cards"

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/rpcr.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 9/7/86 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "A Slam Played with No Points". This is a "Real Deal" Board played in a Mid-Atlantic Regional competition in 1986. Richard Pavlicek sat NORTH.

© 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 (24)

S: --

H: A K Q J 4

D: A K 9 8 5

C: A Q J

WEST (8)

S: A K T 7 5

H: 7 6 5

D: J 7

C: 9 7 3

EAST (8)

S: Q J 6 2

H: 9 8 3

D: Q T 3

C: K 6 5

SOUTH (0)

S: 9 8 4 3

H: T 2

D: 6 4 2

C: T 8 4 2

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	2 C	PASS	2 D
PASS	2 H	PASS	3 C*
PASS	3 D	PASS	3 H
PASS	4 C	PASS	4 D
PASS	6 D	PASS	PASS
PASS			

**"Partner, again, I hold no biddable Suit and a very weak Hand."*

WEST led a Spade Honor thus "promising" the "touching" Honor and asking EAST if EAST can "win" a **3rd** Round of Spades either (1) with the Spade Queen or (2) by ruffing assuming that neither the NORTH Dummy nor SOUTH "show out" of Spades.

1. What "entries" does Declarer SOUTH have into his own Hand from the exposed NORTH Dummy?
2. What are the most likely E/W Heart "splits"?
3. What are the most likely E/W Club "splits"?
4. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0446_a1.pdf