

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0448:

"'Unblocking' Can Be Just as Important on Defense as 'Unblocking' Is to the Declarer and May Even Be Useful in Defeating the Declarer's 'Throw-In Play' / 'Elimination Endplay' "

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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

<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/rpcr.htm>

The present "'Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 10/19/86 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Unblocking Play Foils Thow-In". This is a "Real Deal" Board played in the World Championship in Miami. Bill Root of Boca Raton sat WEST.

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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: **WEST**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (17)

S: A 9

H: K 9 4 3

D: A Q 2

C: A 6 5 2

WEST (10)

S: K 8 7 5 4 3

H: --

D: K J 6

C: K T 9 3

EAST (3)

S: T 2

H: Q T 8 6 5

D: T 5 4 3

C: J 7

SOUTH (10)

S: Q J 6

H: A J 7 2

D: 9 8 7

C: Q 8 4

Bidding

WEST

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

1**S**

DBL*

PASS

2**H**

PASS

3**H**

PASS

3**NT**

PASS

PASS

PASS

*"Partner, I hold (1) **4** Hearts, (2) no **5**-card Suit, and (3) I am 'short' in Spades. Please bid a Suit."

WEST led his Spade 5 as "bottom of something" and **4th** from the "top" so that EAST (and SOUTH) could use the "**Rule of 11**"² to determine how many Spades higher than the 5 Declarer SOUTH holds (or EAST holds).

1. How many Spades higher than the Spade 5 does Declarer SOUTH know that EAST holds?
2. What "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see in the N/S Hands?
3. N/S together are "missing" the Spade, Diamond, and Club Kings? Where do these **3** "missing" E/W Kings "lie"?

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0448_a1.pdf

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see ""Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":

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