

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0449:
"When Playing a 4S Contract as Declarer
Sometimes an '*Elimination Endplay*'
Can Be the Key to Success!"**

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 6/23/85 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Picture Full Deal to Improve Play". This is a "Real Deal" Board played by Erwin Cutler sitting SOUTH in a local duplicate game.

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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: **SOUTH**

Vul: **BOTH**

NORTH (8)

S: 8 7 5 3

H: A 9 4

D: K T 5

C: J 7 4

WEST (10)

S: J T 9

H: K T 5 2

D: 9 4

C: A Q 9 6

EAST (8)

S: --

H: Q J 8 7 6

D: A J 7 6 3

C: 8 5 2

SOUTH (14)

S: A K Q 6 4 2

H: 3

D: Q 8 2

C: K T 3

Bidding

SOUTH

WEST

NORTH

EAST

1**S**

PASS

2**S**

PASS

4**S***

PASS

PASS

PASS

*SOUTH having received a "constructive raise" from NORTH "showing" (1) **3+** Spades and (2) **7-11** HCPs uses the "**Rule of 5**"² guideline for deciding whether or not to bid Game. SOUTH counts as "missing" A,K,Q's across all 4 Suits **0** Spades A,K,Q's, **1** Heart Ace since SOUTH holds a Heart singleton, **2** Diamonds, the Diamond A,K, and **2** Clubs, the Club A,Q. Because 0 + 1 + 2 + 2 equals **5** SOUTH bids **4S**.

On Trick **#1** WEST led the Trump Spade Jack as the "top" of a "touching" Honor sequence. Declarer SOUTH "won" with his own Spade Ace. EAST "showed out" of Trump Spades. On Tricks **#2** and **#3** SOUTH "drew" all **3** of WEST's Trump Spade cards. On the **1st** **3** Tricks EAST discarded **2** Diamonds and **1** Heart.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy was exposed what "losers" could Declarer SOUTH see?

2. What "Line of Play" should Declarer plan to follow?

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0449_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>