

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0473:
"As Declarer Playing a 4S Contract
Sometimes Lowly 'Spot' Cards Play a Key Role"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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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/rpcn.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 12/15/85 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Spot Cards Play a Key Role". This "Real Deal" was played in the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams, the premier event in in a 1980s Sprint North American Championship.

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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: **NORTH**

Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (14)

S: K 2

H: K Q 8 3

D: A Q 6 3

C: 9 4 2

WEST (2)

S: J 9 4 3

H: T 4 2

D: T 8

C: J T 6 5

EAST (11)

S: 8

H: A J 7 6 5

D: K J 9 4

C: Q 8 7

SOUTH (13)

S: A Q T 7 6 5

H: 9

D: 7 5 2

C: A K 3

Bidding

NORTH

EAST

SOUTH

WEST

1**D**

1**H**

1**S**

PASS

1**NT**

PASS

4**S**

PASS

PASS

PASS

PASS

*"Partner, I hold a 'balanced' Hand and a Heart 'stopper'".

WEST leads his Heart 2 in Partner's bid Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" should Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What NORTH Dummy card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0473 a1.pdf>