

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0494: "Careless Trump Play as Declarer Triples Losses"

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/rpc0.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 9/30/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Careless Trump Play Triples Loss".

© 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: **NONE**

NORTH (13)

S: A K Q 5 2

H: T 7 5

D: 7 6 4

C: A 8

WEST (12)

S: 9 8 7

H: A K J 9 8 2

D: --

C: K J 4 3

EAST (8)

S: J T 6 4 3

H: Q 6 4

D: K Q 8

C: T 5

SOUTH (7)

S: --

H: 3

D: A J T 9 5 3 2

C: Q 9 7 6 3

Bidding

SOUTH

5**D**

PASS

WEST

DBL

NORTH

PASS

EAST

PASS

On Trick **#1** WEST led the Heart Ace. By Partnership Agreement this lead (1) "promises" the Heart King and (2) asks Partner EAST to signal" whether can "win" a 3rd Round of Hearts assuming the NORTH Dummy has at least 3 Hearts either (1) by playing the Heart Queen or (2) with a ruff.

1. Was SOUTH's opening bid of 5**D** insane?

2. Should WEST have Overcalled 5**H** rather than DOUBLED?

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

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0494_a1.pdf