

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0508:
"Playing Defense Against a NT Contract:
'Signaling' on Defense and
Making *Critical* Discard Decisions"**

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 7/2/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Communication Crucial in Notrump".

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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: **NONE**

NORTH (9)

S: T 9 5

H: T 7

D: A Q J T 3

C: Q 7 2

WEST (11)

S: K Q J 6 2

H: Q 6 3

D: 7 4

C: K 8 3

EAST (4)

S: 7 4 3

H: 9 8 4 2

D: 9 2

C: A T 9 5

SOUTH (16)

S: A 8

H: A K J 5

D: K 8 6 5

C: J 6 4

Bidding

SOUTH

1**NT**

PASS

WEST

PASS

PASS

NORTH

3**NT**

EAST

PASS

On Trick **#1** WEST leads the Spade King as the "top" of "touching" Honors in his "long" Suit. Using the "**Rule of 7**",² because 7 - 3 Spade cards in Dummy - 2 Spades cards in his own Hand equals 7 - 3 - 2 = **2**, Declarer SOUTH "ducks" for 1 Round of Spades on Trick **#1**.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What card should be led by WEST on Trick **#2**?

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

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0508 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>