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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0532: "As Declarer Do NOT Ruff Until After You Have Established Your 'Side' Suit(s)"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

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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/rpco.htm
The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 7/10/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Premature Ruff Brings Demise". The bridge Board discussed here was a "Real Deal" played in a 1988 tournament.

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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: ***BOTH***

	NORTH (***12***) ***S:*** *7 6* ***H:*** *A Q 4 3* ***D:*** *A 9 7 6 5 3* ***C:*** *Q*	
WEST (***6***) ***S:*** *9 3 2* ***H:*** *J T 8 7* ***D:*** *T 2* ***C:*** *A J 9 7*		*EAST* (***10***) ***S:*** *K J T 8 5* ***H:*** *--* ***D:*** *Q J 8 4* ***C:*** *K 5 4 3*
	SOUTH (***12***) ***S:*** *A Q 4* ***H:*** *K 9 6 5 2* ***D:*** *K* ***C:*** *T 8 6 2*	

Bidding

NORTH	*EAST*	*SOUTH*	*WEST*
*1**D***	*1**S***	*2**H***	*PASS*
*3**H***	*PASS*	*4**H***	*PASS*
PASS	*PASS*		

WEST does not want to lead a Club "away" from his Club Ace. WEST also knows that N/S together hold either ***8*** *or* ***9*** *Trump Hearts and that his Partner EAST either holds a Trump Heart singleton or void. So, WEST does not want to lead a Trump Heart and leads his Spade 2 in EAST's bid Suit. EAST plays his Spade King and Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick* ***#1*** *with the Spade Ace.*

1. *Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer NORTH see?*

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

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0532_a1.pdf