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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0541: "Beware of an Opponent's '*Deception Play*': When as Declarer Your Game Contract Is 'Cold' Even in Matchpoint Play *NEVER* Risk the Contract to Try to Make an Unneeded Overtrick!"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

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https://esther-bridge.com/index.html
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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 2/21/88 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Declarer Lured by Defensive Trap". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1988 local Florida rubber 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: ***NORTH***
Vul: ***BOTH***

	NORTH (***13***) ***S:*** *4 3* ***H:*** *A Q 8 6* ***D:*** *A T 9 6* ***C:*** *K 7 4*	
WEST (***4***) ***S:*** *Q J T 7* ***H:*** *J 9 5 4* ***D:*** *7 5* ***C:*** *9 8 5*		*EAST* (***8***) ***S:*** *K 9 6 2* ***H:*** *K T 7* ***D:*** *Q 4 2* ***C:*** *T 6 3*
	SOUTH (***15***) ***S:*** *A 8 5* ***H:*** *3 2* ***D:*** *K J 8 3* ***C:*** *A Q J 2*	

Bidding

NORTH	*EAST*	*SOUTH*	*WEST*
*1**D***	*PASS*	*3**D****	*PASS*
*3**H***	*PASS*	*3**NT***	*PASS*
PASS	*PASS*		

*WEST on Trick **#1** leads his Spade Queen as the "top" of a "touching" Honors sequence including **3** Honors. Declarer SOUTH invoked the "**Rule of 7**"[2] and so executed a "**Holdup Play**":*
https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/holdup.pdf
*and "ducked" by playing his Spade 5. On Trick **#2** WEST continued with his Spade Ten and EAST played his Spade King and Declarer SOUTH "ducked" a **2nd** time. On Trick **#3** EAST led a "low" Spade, SOUTH discarded the NORTH Dummy's Heart 6 and Declarer SOUTH "won" with the Spade Ace. Three (**3**) Spade Tricks had now been played and both the NORTH Dummy and SOUTH's own Hand were void in Spades.*

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

2. *Which E/W Opponent is the "Danger Player" whom Declarer SOUTH should want to keep from obtaining the lead?*

[2] Within the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" see: "**Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'**":
https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0541_a1.pdf