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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0551: "On Defense Can a Defender Lead 'Away from an Ace' on Trick #1 as a '*Deception Play*' or Does Doing So Violate One of the 'ACBL Laws of Bridge'?"

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 5/3/87 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Tricky Lead Beats Cold Contract". This "Real Deal" was played in a 1987 Swiss Teams competition in the ACBL Southwestern Regional Bridge Tournament. On this "Real Deal" Mitch Chandler sat WEST as the Defender on lead on Trick **#1**.

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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: ***BOTH***

	*NORTH (**13**)* ***S:*** *K J 7 3* ***H:*** *T 5* ***D:*** *A Q 7 6 2* ***C:*** *K 5*	
*WEST (**11**)* ***S:*** *A 8 6 4* ***H:*** *3* ***D:*** *K T 9* ***C:*** *A T 8 6 3*		*EAST (**9**)* ***S:*** *Q T 9 5 2* ***H:*** *K 9 2* ***D:*** *J 8* ***C:*** *Q J 9*
	*SOUTH (**7**)* ***S:*** *--* ***H:*** *A Q J 8 7 6 4* ***D:*** *5 4 3* ***C:*** *7 4 2*	

Bidding

SOUTH	*WEST*	*NORTH*	*EAST*
*3**H***	*PASS*	*4**H***	*PASS*
PASS	*PASS*		

*On Trick **#1** WEST led his Spade 4, Declarer SOUTH played the NORTH Dummy's Spade Jack, EAST played the Spade Queen, and Declarer SOUTH "won" by ruffing from his own Hand.*

1. *Why did WEST "underlead" from his Spade Ace on Trick **#1**? Does this lead violate one of the "**ACBL Laws of Bridge**"?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0551_a1.pdf