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Bridge

In Women's Event in Chicago, a Missed Lead, and a Rout

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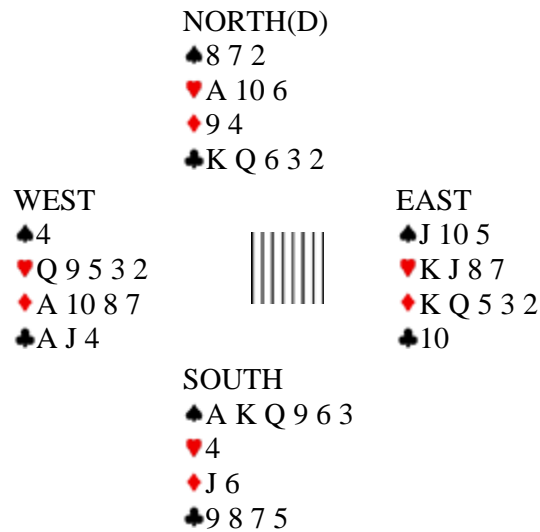
At the Summer North American Bridge Championships in Chicago, organized by the American Contract Bridge League, yesterday's final of the blue-ribbon event, the Spingold Knockout Teams, was between two pretournament favorites. Nick Nickell of New York; Dick Freeman of Atlanta; Bob Hamman of Dallas; Jeff Meckstroth of Tampa, Fla.; Eric Rodwell of Clearwater Beach, Fla.; and Paul Soloway of Mill Creek, Wash., played 64 boards, with play continuing late into the night, against a team with Charlie Weed as the nonplaying captain and including James Cayne of New York; Michael Seamon of Aventura, Fla.; and Fulvio Fantoni, Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes and Alfredo Versace from Italy.

These teams led throughout their semifinal matches on Saturday, Nickell defeating George Jacobs and Ralph Katz of Hinsdale, Ill.; Bobby Levin and Zia Mahmood of New York; Michael Rosenberg of New Rochelle, N.Y.; and Steve Weinstein of Andes, N.Y., 122 international match points to 86. The Weed team beat Robert Hollman of Santa Barbara, Calif.; Curtis Cheek of Huntsville, Ala.; Billy Cohen of Encinitas, Calif.; Bruce Ferguson of Boise, Idaho; Joe Grue of New York; and Ron Smith of San Francisco, 183 imps to 103.

The Open Swiss Teams was won by Christal Henner-Welland, Roy Welland and Bjorn Fallenius of New York, Antonio Sementa from Italy and Cezary Balicki and Adam Zmudzinski from Poland.

The final of the Wagar Women's Knockout Teams proved to be one-sided, with Judi Radin and Sylvia Moss of New York; Mildred Breed of Austin, Tex.; Pamela Granovetter of Cincinnati; Shawn Quinn of Richmond, Tex.; and Migry Zur-Campanile from Israel winning, 135 international match points to 53. Betty Ann Kennedy of Shreveport, La.; Val Covalciuc of Fort Myers, Fla.; Linda Lewis of Sioux Falls, S.D.; Rebecca Rogers of Las Vegas; Peggy Sutherlin of Dallas; and Pam Wittes of Venice, Calif., conceded after 48 of the scheduled 64 boards.

The diagramed deal produced the largest swing in favor of the Radin team.



North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Zur-Campanile	Wittes	Granovetter	Lewis
Pass	Pass	2 ♠	Dbl.
3 ♣	3 ♥	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♠	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

At both tables South opened two spades in the third position, and West made a takeout double. For the Kennedy team, Rogers (North), worried about the vulnerability, raised to three spades, then sold out when Quinn (East) bid four hearts. Declarer had no trouble scoring an overtrick, losing one spade and one heart.

At the table where Zur-Campanile was North, she made the much better response of three clubs. Opposite a weak two-bid, a new suit by a passed hand is fit-showing, indicating length in the bid suit and support for partner's major. The rest of the auction was natural, but surely Wittes (East) should have contested to the five level. She knew that her opponents had a double fit in the black suits, and this meant that she and her partner had a double fit in the red suits. When you have a double fit, declare; do not defend.

Based on the bidding, Lewis (West) should have found the killing defense, leading the club ace and continuing with the club four as a suit-preference signal for diamonds, the lower-ranking of the other two side suits. East would ruff, put her partner back on lead with the diamond ace and receive a second club ruff. But West led the heart deuce, lowest from an odd number of cards. The declarer, Granovetter, won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and played a club toward the board. When dummy's king held the trick, declarer ruffed a heart in her hand and led another club. In this way she held her losses to two diamonds and one club.

Plus 450 and 790 gave the Radin team 15 imps en route to the title.