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BRIDGE

World Championships in Bali, Indonesia

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The round-robin stage of the world championships in Bali, Indonesia, is just past the halfway mark, 12 of 21 rounds. With eight teams to qualify for the quarterfinals, five of the six United States teams are in the top eight.

NORTH			
♠	A K Q		
♥	9		
♦	A K 9 6		
♣	A K J 7 5		
WEST(D)			
♠	9 7 6 2		♠ 10 8 5
♥	7 5 3		♥ A J 10
♦	7 3		♦ 8 5 4 2
♣	10 9 6 3		♣ Q 8 4
EAST			
SOUTH			
♠	J 4 3		
♥	K Q 8 6 4 2		
♦	Q J 10		
♣	2		

Neither side was vulnerable.

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 N.T.	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the spade six.

In the Venice Cup, USA-2 is second and USA-1 third. In the Bermuda Bowl, USA-1 is sixth. USA-2 is 11th, but less than half a match behind eighth. In the d'Orsi Senior Trophy, USA-2 is third and USA-1 eighth. The Canadian Venice Cup team is eighth; that country's other two teams will need a strong finish.

The diagramed deal was Board 8 in the third round, in a meeting of two favorites for the Venice Cup, France and USA-2.

At the first table, Bénédicte Cronier (North for France) opened two diamonds, showing any game-forcing hand. Sylvie Willard (South) responded two hearts, indicating a hand that was

either bad, or good and unbalanced. North chose to rebid two no-trump, so South transferred into hearts, then jumped to five hearts to invite a slam. Understandably, North passed.

With the 3-3 trump break, South lost only two heart tricks.

When you are in the zone, you find successful bids — as Jill Meyers (South) did in the given auction. Migry Zur-Campanile (North) opened two clubs, and South responded two hearts, promising a five-card or longer suit headed by at least two of the top three honors. Then, after North rebid three clubs, South found the winning continuation of three diamonds. North raised, then used Roman Key Card Blackwood. South's five-club reply denied a key card.

North then bid six diamonds, which was the only makable slam.

West led a spade. Declarer won with dummy's queen, cashed the club ace and king, and ruffed a club. When the queen appeared, South drew trumps and claimed. But even if a defender had started with queen-fourth of clubs, declarer would have been all right if the spades were 4-3.

Minus 450 and plus 920 gave 10 international match points to USA-2 en route to victory by 12 imps.