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BRIDGE

Women's Team Trial for the World Mind Sports Games

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The 96-board final of the women's team trial for the second World Mind Sports Games ended late on Tuesday evening in Schaumburg, Ill. The winner became the United States team, heading to Lille, France, in August.

NORTH			
♠ 6 5 2			
♥ K 3 2			
♦ Q J			
♣ K Q 10 8 4			
WEST(D)		EAST	
♠ K J 10 7 3		♠ Q 9 4	
♥ Q J 6		♥ 8 7 4	
♦ 7 6 4 3		♦ 10 2	
♣ 7		♣ J 9 6 3 2	
SOUTH			
♠ A 8			
♥ A 10 9 5			
♦ A K 9 8 5			
♣ A 5			
East and West were vulnerable. The bidding:			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West led the club seven.			

The match was between Sylvia Moss, Judi Radin, Lynn Deas, Migry Zur Campanile and JoAnna Stansby; and JoAnn Sprung, Joann Glasson, Cindy Bernstein, Sally Wheeler, Georgiana Gates and Pat Norman.

With one board to be played, the diagramed deal, Sprung led by 4 international match points.

In the given auction, Campanile (North) opened one club, which was either natural or any balanced hand outside the range for a one-no-trump opening (14 to 16 points). Stansby

(South) responded one spade, which suggested a balanced hand either weak (0 to 8 points) or strong (game-forcing). It denied a four-card major unless having game-going values.

South's two-heart rebid promised both red suits and instigated a game-force. The rest of the auction was natural, reaching the excellent six-diamond slam.

West led her singleton club. Stansby won with the ace, drew trumps and cashed dummy's king-queen of clubs to discard her spade loser.

In isolation the best play for three heart tricks was to cash dummy's king, then to take two finesses (unless East played an honor of course). However, declarer did not have the communications for that line. She played a heart to her ace and returned the heart five toward dummy, claiming when the queen appeared from West.

Could Bernstein (North) and Wheeler (South) match this result?

North chose to pass on the first round, so South opened one diamond. Deas (West) overcalled one spade, North responded two clubs, Radin (East) passed, South rebid two hearts, and North cue-bid two spades. When East doubled to show a spade honor, South passed. North continued with three diamonds and South bid three hearts, indicating a good four-card holding. (With 5-6 in the red suits, South would have bid three hearts immediately over East's double of two spades.) North raised to four hearts, and everyone passed.

West led the spade jack, and the contract made with an overtrick, South losing one spade and one heart. However, plus 920 and minus 450 gave the Moss team 10 imps on the board and victory by 223 to 217.

Beth Palmer has been added as its sixth player.