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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

12/11/2009 East-West vulnerable. East deals.

	NORTH 6 3 K 10 4 10 2 J 9 8 5 3 2	
WEST J 8 4 7 6 A 7 4 3 K Q 10 4		EAST 9 7 2 Q J 9 8 3 Q 9 6 5 A
	SOUTH A K Q 10 5 A 5 2 K J 8 7 6	

EAST Pass Pass X	SOUTH 1 NT 3 Spade All Pass	WEST Pass Pass	NORTH 2 Spade Pass
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Opening lead: Seven of

This deal is from the Bermuda Bowl match between USA1 and Australia at the recent World Championships in Sao Paulo. The result was a matter of hand evaluation rather than system or skill.

With Australia North-South, South opened a 15-17 no trump, North transferred into clubs and East, Kit Woolsey, balanced with a double, for takeout. However West, Fred Stewart, passed, suggesting that South might have some trouble coming to nine tricks. His assessment was eminently correct – declarer went down two – 300 points to the Americans.

At the other table, Steve Robinson for the U.S. squad decided that his solid five-card major, nearly all-prime cards and a ruffing value in clubs was worth more like 19-20 points at a spade contract. He opened one spade, passed round to East whose balancing bid of two hearts ended the auction. Accurate defense held declarer to six tricks – another 200 to the USA for a gain of 11 imps.

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