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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

12/12/2009 Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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

NORTH 1 Diamond 2 Spade	EAST Pass X	SOUTH 1 Spade 4 Spade	WEST Pass All Pass
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Opening lead: Seven of

Here's another deal from the USA1-Australia Bermuda Bowl match from the recent World Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The auction and opening lead was virtually the same at both tables. Note that these days the North hand is considered a sound opening bid in expert circles.

Both declarers ducked the opening lead in dummy and both Easts won the king. The defenders now have three fast tricks to cash. Can they get them?

Both Easts cashed the ace of clubs, and we do not know what card the Wests played to this trick. Whether it was a suit-preference deuce or a count-giving jack, we can see no future in a club continuation – declarer must hold either the king of clubs or the ace of diamonds for his jump to game.

The Australian East continued with a club, taken in dummy. Declarer drew one round of trumps, cashed the queen of hearts, returned to dummy with a trump and discarded a diamond on the ace of hearts and could claim 10 tricks. For USA 1, Kit Woolsey shifted to the eight of diamonds. Fred Stewart took the ace and returned the suit, and the Americans had the first four tricks.

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