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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

27th March 2010 East-West vulnerable. South deals.

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

SOUTH 1 Spade 3 Club 3 Spade 4 Spade	WEST Pass Pass Pass Pass	NORTH 2 NT 3 Diamond 4 Heart 6 Spade	EAST Pass Pass Pass All Pass
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Opening lead: Four of ♠

This deal is from the semifinal round of the Trials to select the U.S. team for the World Championships some years ago. All four Souths declared six spades. The only declarer to succeed was Hugh Ross, of Oakland, Calif.

North's two no trump was a game force in spades. South showed his second suit, then showed no further interest. North gave up all thoughts of a grand slam.

West's lead of his singleton trump did declarer no harm. East's jack of trumps was taken with the ace and dummy's top hearts were cashed, declarer discarding two diamonds from hand.

There followed the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, then the ace and queen of clubs, West following with a low club. Declarer ruffed low on the board, ruffed a diamond in hand and continued with the jack of clubs, ruffing away West's king.

When declarer now led the last diamond from the table, East could do no better than discard a heart. Declarer ruffed his last club with the queen of trumps, and had to score his ten of trumps for the fulfilling trick.

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