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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			Pass
1 Heart	2 Club	Pass	2 Diamond
Pass	3 Diamond	3 Heart	3 NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: ?

There was a new event at this year's ACBL Spring North American Championships held in Reno – the Platinum Pairs. It was won by New Yorkers Andrew Stark and Franco Baseggio by a margin of less than one half of a matchpoint! In the process they beat out some of the country's top stars. To appreciate this deal, cover everything except the West hand and the bidding, and decide: What would you lead against three no trump?

If you elected to lead a low heart, you will simply follow suit as the opponents collect 13 tricks. Stark chose a different course. He reasoned that the king of hearts was to his right and that the opponents had length in the minors. With spades unbid, he elected to hope that his partner held the king of spades and so decided to lead the unbid suit. However, in case he wanted to collect his two aces, he settled on the ace for his initial attack.

Needless to say, his partner liked the lead – a lot! He signaled vigorously with nine. Eight tricks later they claimed down four!

e-mail: [gorenbridge@aol.com](mailto:gorenbridge@aol.com)