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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

29<sup>th</sup> May 2010 North-South vulnerable. East deals.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		3 Diamond	X
Pass	3 Heart	Pass	3 Spade
Pass	4 Spade	Pass	Pass
X	All Pass		

Opening lead: King of

New Yorkers Andrew Stark and Franco Baseggio won the Platinum Pairs event at the recent ACBL Spring National Championships by less than half a matchpoint. This deal from the Final almost cost them the title. Baseggio and Stark were East-West, respectively. Declarer was another New Yorker, John Hurd.

The defense started with two top hearts, East echoing with the J 6. West shifted to his singleton diamond, won with the ace in dummy. Declarer crossed to the ace of spades, returned to dummy with the queen of clubs and cashed the ten of hearts, discarding his losing diamond, and the eight of hearts, letting go a club.

Next came a trump to the king, followed by the ace and king of clubs. When declarer continued with the ten of clubs West, down to nothing but three trumps, was forced to ruff with the ten of trumps to prevent declarer ruffing in dummy with the nine. West was now forced to lead a trump from his J 5 into declarer's Q 8 – four spades doubled and made.

West was a trifle careless. East would not start an echo in hearts unless he could ruff the third round. Therefore, West should have continued with a heart and declarer would have ended up a trick short since he can score only one heart trick. Try it.

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