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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 Both vulnerable. West deals.

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 Club	X	Pass
Pass	3 NT	All Pass	

Opening lead: Nine of ♣

In the first tournament in the U.S. this writer played in, he was partnered by Mike Cappelletti. Mike is still going strong, as this

deal from the ACBL Fall North American championships proves.

After South's super-strong one-no-trump opening, East doubled North's Stayman inquiry as a lead-director, and declarer ended in three no trump.

Declarer won in hand perforce and, in an effort to promote entries to the table to take diamond finesses, led the queen of spades losing to the king. East returned a club, taken by declarer. The ten of spades was covered by the jack and won with the ace. The queen of diamonds was run, followed by the jack, king and ace.

Declarer now had 11 tricks, but overtricks were a premium. Next came a spade to the seven and nine, East discarding a heart and the diamonds were run, bringing this position:

	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ 6 ♥ K4 ♦ -- ♣ J	
<b>WEST</b> ♠ 8 ♥ J109 ♦ -- ♣ --		<b>EAST</b> ♠ -- ♥ Q86 ♦ -- ♣ Q
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ -- ♥ A52 ♦ 4 ♣ --	

When declarer led his remaining diamond, West was forced to part with a heart, dummy's now-useless six of spades was ditched and East was squeezed in hearts and clubs. No matter which he let go, declarer would take the last three tricks.

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