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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

29th October 2010 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

South	West	North	East
2 Club	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	3 Club	Pass
3 Heart	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
6 Spade	All Pass		

Opening lead: Five of ♠

We welcome back Eddie Kantar and his "Thinking Bridge" series, published in the Daily Bulletins at the recent ACBL Summer North American Championships held in New Orleans.

"North's two diamonds is a 'waiting bid', not necessarily a bad hand, but three clubs is the 'second negative, showing a very bad hand.

All roads lead to Rome after North shows a very weak hand, presumably with three spades. After all, South does not have many losers with that dream hand.

"A trump lead is not clear, but it is reasonable. You are East, and you may not realize it but the fate of this slam depends on your playing low at trick one! If you turn your neck a quarter turn to the right, you will see that dummy has a doubleton heart, as do you. You should also see that, if you keep your ten of spades, you will be able to overruff dummy if declarer has to ruff a heart (he does).

"This is yet another case where third hand does not always play high. When partner leads a trump and you hold a trump that can over ruff dummy, it is almost always right to play low, keeping that trump for a useful purpose.

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