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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

5th November 2010 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 Heart	Pass
3 Spade	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♥

Here's another deal from Eddie Kantar's excellent series "Thinking Bridge," designed for players who are eager to improve their game and published in the Daily Bulletins at the recent ACBL Summer North American Championships in New Orleans.

"A 19-point balanced hand with four aces plus a five-card suit headed by two honors should be upgraded by at least one point and treated as a 20-point hand. This hand is oodles better than a balanced 20-count with a 4-3-3-3 or some 4-4-3-2 patterns. It is also the reason not to open one no trump with a balanced 17 high-card points with a five-card suit headed by any two honors — treat it as an 18-point hand.

"You start with seven top tricks and have to develop either spades or clubs for two additional tricks. But which suit should you attack? If either suit breaks 3-3 (36 percent), it doesn't matter which one you attack. However, there is a decided advantage in attacking spades starting with the ace and then playing low from both hands on the second spade. Why?

"Assuming a 4-2 break (3-3 doesn't matter), you will take three spade tricks anytime either opponent has an honor doubleton (16 percent). Once second hand plays low, you have to hope fourth hand is the one with honor doubleton. An extra 16 percent is not to sneezed at."

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