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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

15th November 2011

Dealer : North Vul : None	NORTH ♠ A 10 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ K Q 10 7 3	
WEST ♠ 4 ♥ J 10 5 2 ♦ K 10 9 6 ♣ J 9 8 4		EAST ♠ J 7 6 5 ♥ Q 7 4 3 ♦ 4 2 ♣ 6 5 2
	SOUTH ♠ K Q 9 8 3 2 ♥ A 9 ♦ Q J 5 3 ♣ A	

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 Club	Pass
4 Spade	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 Club	Pass	6 Heart	Pass
6 Spade	Pass	7 Spade	All Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

This deal is from a world championship match between Italy and the U.S.A., the world's two strongest teams. At both tables the contract was a grand slam in spades, and both Wests led the jack of hearts. At both tables declarer won and cashed two top trumps, and eventually had to concede a trump trick. Could they have done better?

Trump Coup Tommy would have landed the slam. Suppose that declarer wins the heart lead in hand, cashes the ace of clubs and king of spades and crosses to dummy with ace of trumps. When the 4-1 trump split is revealed, declarer ruffs a club in hand and leads the queen of diamonds.

If West covers, declarer runs clubs from the top. East cannot afford to ruff, so declarer discards three diamonds from hand, ruffs a diamond, returns to dummy with the king of hearts and East is trapped in a trump coup — making seven-odd!

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/bridge-column-for-nov/article_da3bbdaf-00f0-5da4-99d7-61aecf73ead9.html#ixzz1dl3C9riA

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