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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011

Dealer : West Vul : N-S	NORTH ♠ A 10 4 ♥ A K Q ♦ J 9 8 2 ♣ A 10 3	
WEST ♠ K 7 5 3 ♥ J 5 3 2 ♦ Q 7 ♣ J 9 4		EAST ♠ 9 8 6 ♥ 10 9 8 7 ♦ K 10 4 3 ♣ 8 5
	SOUTH ♠ Q J 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ K Q 7 6 2	

South	West	North	East
--	Pass	1Diamond	pass
3 NT	Pass	6 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: : ?

This deal is from last year's ACBL Fall North American Championships. Six no trump was a fairly common contract, and succeeded at every table except one. What opening lead did West find to steer declarer to the wrong track?

It would seem that the slam needs a spade finesse and a running club suit to get home. At almost all tables of the Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams a major suit was led, either a heart or a spade, and the contract rolled home.

At one table West, Pablo Lambardi, found a devastating lead — the queen of diamonds! That was consistent with a holding of K Q 10, so declarer saw no need to risk going down by taking the spade finesse. Instead, he captured queen with the ace, ran the clubs and then took the "marked" line by playing on diamonds, leading low to the jack. East was delighted to score the king-ten of diamonds for a one-trick set and a clear win!

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