

Daily Bridge Club

Deferential treatment

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In college football, the team winning the opening coin-toss can defer its options until the second half. Today's declarer should have deferred his.

At six hearts, South took the ace of spades, drew trumps and next led a diamond from dummy to his queen. West took the king and led a second spade.

South had 11 tricks. He could get one more if diamonds broke 3-3 or a spade finesse won, but he couldn't defer his options. A 3-3 break was against the odds, so South played dummy's jack of spades. Down one.

BEST PLAY

South might have taken the king of spades, reasoning that West would not have led from a queen against a slam. But after South draws trumps, his best play is to lead the ace and a low diamond.

If West takes the king, South is home; if dummy's jack wins, South can lead a third diamond to learn whether the suit breaks 3-3. If East has the king, South will have a chance to test the diamonds. If the suit breaks badly, South succeeds if West has the queen of spades.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 7 5 4 ♥ A K J 5
♦ A Q 5 ♣ A K 6. The dealer, at your right, opens one spade. You

double, and your partner responds ("advances") two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: This situation is awkward. Your partner had to respond to your double and may have no points and only four hearts. Your three spade losers suggest caution. Raise to three hearts. An option might be to cue-bid two spades to try to convey your extra strength.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A K J
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ J 6 3 2
♣ 9 4

WEST

♠ 10 8 3 2
♥ 9 6 2
♦ K 7 4
♣ J 8 7

EAST

♠ Q 9 6
♥ 8 4
♦ 10 9 8
♣ Q 10 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 7 5 4
♥ A K J 5
♦ A Q 5
♣ A K 6

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ 2