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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0530: "As Declarer Playing a 6S Contract Should You, or Should You NOT, Follow the '*Eight Ever, Nine Never*' Bridge Principle?"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

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https://esther-bridge.com/index.html
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About **Richard Pavlicek**

Richard Pavlicek (1945-) has won **11** North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting **3** straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982-84, and again in 1990. He won the 1973 inaugural Grand National Teams tournament and repeated a win there in 1997. He has written or co-authored several bridge books, including with co-author William S. Root their 1981 book, Modern Bridge Conventions. From 1984 until 1990 Pavlicek was the Bridge Columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Esther particularly likes the Bridge Simulation Studies presented on his bridge website:
https://www.rpbridge.net/rpsi.htm
and his re-posts of his newspaper bridge columns:
https://www.rpbridge.net/rpco.htm
The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 4/16/89 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Look at the Forrest, Not Just a Tree". The present "Real Deal" bridge Board was played in one of Pavlicek's Advanced Bridge Lessons.

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[1] As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, **https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf**, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

Dealer: ***NORTH***
Vul: ***NONE***

NORTH (***19***)
S: *A 6 5 2*
H: *A K 7 2*
D: *A 3*
C: *A 9 4*

WEST (***7***)
S: *Q J*
H: *Q J T 5*
D: *T 5 2*
C: *J 6 5 3*

EAST (***3***)
S: *8 7*
H: *9 6*
D: *J 9 8 7 6*
C: *Q T 8 7*

SOUTH (***11***)
S: *K T 9 4 3*
H: *8 4 3*
D: *K Q 4*
C: *K 2*

Bidding

NORTH	*EAST*	*SOUTH*	*WEST*
*1**C***	*PASS*	*1**S***	*PASS*
*4**S***	*PASS*	*4**NT***	*PASS*
*5**C****	*PASS*	*6**S***	*PASS*
PASS	*PASS*		

***** *"Partner, I hold either* ***0*** *or* ***4*** *Aces" This is conventional Blackwood and not the* ***"Roman Key Card ('RKC') 1430 Convention".***[2]

WEST leads the Heart Queen as the "top" of "touching" Honors in his "longest and strongest" unbid Suit thus "promising" the "touching" Jack. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick ***#1*** *with the NORTH Dummy's Heart Ace.*

1. *Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer NORTH see?*

2. *When trying to "draw" the* ***4*** *Trump Spade cards held together by E/W, should Declarer SOUTH follow the* ***"Eight Ever, Nine Never"*** *bridge principle?*

3. *What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH follow?*

[2] Within the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" see: "**Exploring Slam by Asking for Aces or 'Key Cards': Gerber, Blackwood, Blackwood Key Card, Roman Key Card (RKC), and 'Minorwood' Key Card**": https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/RKC_1430.pdf

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0530_a1.pdf