

Actual Results (East/West viewpoint):

Five pairs bid 6NT. Three made 6NT and two went down 1 trick.
 Two bid 5NT and made 5.
 One bid 7NT and went down 2.
 Two bid 3NT and made 5.
 One bid 4NT and made 6.
 One bid 6♣ and went down 2.
 All should have made 6NT, but only 4 out of 12 bid it and made it.

Computer-Generated Prediction:

E/W can make 6NT (12 tricks) or 6♣ (but 6NT is a better contract).

What is there to learn from this game?

There must be a better way to play the hand for those who did not make 6NT. Except for E/W Pair #10, the NT contracts were by East. The lead would come from South and would likely be a heart, either ♥10 (top of nothing) or ♥3 (4th card from the highest). If South has the ♦Ace/Queen, East's ♦King is doomed. It's a gamble. East must be careful to discard diamonds so he can keep an entry to the spades and be able to finesse the diamond from West's (dummy) hand. It's a tricky hand to play.

For E/W Pair #10 (West is declarer), the lead would come from North and would likely be a spade or the ♦Ace. (Against a slam contract, opponents will often lead an Ace.) With the ♦Ace lead, the contract will make: 1 diamond trick (or more because the Queen will fall), 3 spade tricks, 4 club tricks and 4 heart tricks. But North did not lead the Ace; he led a spade. West can play out the winners and leave the diamond for the last, but must keep a spade stopper. West's mistake was that he played all his spades and then tried the diamond finesse. North took the diamond trick with his Ace and then got a spade trick to put him down 1. West could have saved his ♦King and then stopped the spades.

Sometimes it is a good strategy to avoid leading an Ace when opponents are in a slam contract, especially in a NT slam contract.

Dir: West
Vul: All

♠10 9 8 5 4

♥6

♦A 9 5 2

♣6 4 3

♠7 6

♥K Q 9 7

♦J 10 8 4

♣A K 10

W	North	E
e	4	a
s	South	t

♠A K Q

♥A J 8

♦K 7 6

♣Q J 8 7

	4	
13		20
	3	

♠J 3 2

♥10 5 4 3 2

♦Q 3

♣9 5 2

	♠	♦	♥	♣	N
N	-	-	-	-	-
S	-	-	-	-	-
E	6	4	5	3	6
W	6	4	5	3	6

Board No 4 Both Vul Dealer West								
Pairs		Contract			Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	15	6NT	E	6		1440	1	10
2	2	5NT	E	5		660	5½	5½
6	10	6NT	W	-1	100		8½	2½
7	12	6♣	E	-2	200		10½	0½
8	14	7NT	E	-2	200		10½	0½
9	1	6NT	E	6		1440	1	10
10	3	3NT	E	5		660	5½	5½
11	5	6NT	E	6		1440	1	10
12	7	4NT	E	6		690	3	8
13	9	3NT	E	5		660	5½	5½
14	11	5NT	E	5		660	5½	5½
15	13	6NT	E	-1	100		8½	2½