



BRIDGE®

BY STEVE BECKER

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 6 4
♥ A 10
♦ K 6 5
♣ A Q 9 4

WEST
♠ J 8
♥ K 8 6
♦ A 10 9 8 2
♣ K 10 8

EAST
♠ A 10
♥ J 9 7 3 2
♦ 7 3
♣ 7 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 7 5 3 2
♥ Q 5 4
♦ Q J 4
♣ J 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
4 ♠* Pass 4 ♠

*balanced raise to game in spades.
Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

This deal occurred in an early match between Norway and the United States at the 1993 world team championship. When Peter Weichsel and Bobby Levin of the U.S. held the North-South hands, they reached four spades as shown. It might appear that with the spades dividing evenly and the king of clubs favorably located, Levin was certain to make his contract.

But this did not take into account the inspired defense of then-23-year-old Geir Helgemo, who, with

his youthful Norwegian teammates, finished second to the Netherlands for the world title that year. For his opening lead, Helgemo selected the diamond ten!

Barring a defensive slip, there was now no way for Levin to make the contract. But the Norwegians demonstrated in this, their very first match, that they had not come to the world championship to settle for anything less than perfection.

Levin took the opening diamond lead in his hand and led a spade to the queen. East, Tor Helness, won with the ace and returned a diamond to his partner's ace. Helgemo then carefully led the diamond deuce for Helness to ruff, giving the defenders their third trick.

Had Helness returned a heart, certainly tempting in view of dummy's club holding, declarer could have gotten home safely by playing low from his hand, trapping West's king. But Helness obeyed the suit-preference signal carried by the diamond deuce and returned a club. After Helgemo's ten forced dummy's queen, there was no way for Levin to avoid losing a heart, and he finished down one.

At the other table, Norway's Glenn Grotheim and Terje Aa stopped in three spades and made four for plus 170, giving the Norwegians a 6-IMP pickup on the deal.

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUHEO

BOTAO

REIPTM

GBREIG

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Print your answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: YEAST HARSH ACCENT DRIVER
Answer: How he ended up with poison ivy on his scalp was a — HEAD-SCRATCHER

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Do you think these will be a hit with your team?

They don't even have to be baked. Tastes like a home run to me.

WHILE MAKING CUPCAKES FOR HER SON'S BASEBALL TEAM, SHE SAID ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.