

## QUICK OFF THE MARK

<p>♠ T82 ♥ J93 ♦ K862 ♣ Q75</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dir: N</i> <i>Vul: NS</i></p> <p>♠ A7653 ♥ 52 ♦ 4 ♣ T9843</p>
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Bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	2C*	Pass
2D**	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

\*23+ points or less than 4 losers

\*\* Less than seven points

You are East. Your partner leads the 8H and declarer plays the 9H from dummy which wins. Declarer now leads the 10S. What do you play?

### Thoughts:

This was a board played on Saturday, July 27. Partner has led an 8. Is this "Top of Nothing" or the top of a doubleton or is it her fourth highest? If it is from a short suit declarer should have five hearts or more including the AH, KH and QH and yet declarer did not bid hearts. It seems more likely that partner has led her fourth highest.

If you apply the Rule of Eleven you can deduce that declarer has only one card higher than the 8H in her hand. Declarer has at least 29 points between her hand and dummy which leaves partner with seven points at most. Partner must have either AH and KH or AH and QH since she would have led the KH with KQ10 and more. It looks almost certain that declarer has seven tricks in the minors so you must not let her win a spade trick. Go up with the AS immediately and lead your other heart in the hope that partner had five hearts to begin with.

<b>21</b>	<p>♠ T82 ♥ J93 ♦ K862 ♣ Q75</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dir: N</i> <i>Vul: NS</i></p> <p>♠ A7653 ♥ 52 ♦ 4 ♣ T9843</p>																															
<p>♠ 94 ♥ AQT86 ♦ 9753 ♣ 62</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6      4 6      4 24</p>	<p>♠ KQJ ♥ K74 ♦ AQJT ♣ AKJ</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>♠</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♣</td> <td>NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>		♠	♥	♦	♣	NT	N	1	3	1	1	2	S	1	3	1	1	2	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	
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