

Bridge -- by Larry Cohen

I recently returned from the national championships in Reno, where our team made it all the way to the finals of the prestigious Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. Alas, we lost in the finals, so it's only "Silver" for this Boca Greens resident. The final match was very close, and the illustrated deal (which was featured in the *New York Times*) was one of our team's big losses:

	♠ J 9 7 5		Vul: Both
	♥ Q 10 8 6 4 2		Dlr: South
	♦ --		
	♣ K 9 8		
♠ K Q 10 3 2		♠ A 8 4	
♥ A 3		♥ K J 9 5	
♦ K Q 9 2		♦ --	
♣ J 3		♣ Q 10 7 6 5 2	
	♠ 6		
	♥ 7		
	♦ A J 10 8 7 6 5		
	4 3		
	♣ A 4		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			5♦
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

At our table, my partner David Berkowitz opened the South hand with five diamonds. West wisely passed (if he doubled it would have been for takeout, and East would have pulled). Five diamonds was passed around to East and he made an excellent decision to make a takeout double of his own. He was

very light on high cards, but perhaps he sensed his partner would be leaving it in for penalties. Indeed, West was delighted to defend five diamonds doubled and the defense took the obvious five trick (three trumps and two aces) for down three and 800.

At the other table, Paul Soloway, the holder of almost 50,000 masterpoints, chose reasonably enough to open the South hand with a bid of only *one* diamond. After all, if you use the Rule of 20, you have 9 points + 11 cards in your longest two suits! He ended up getting doubled in three diamonds, but that was only a one-trick defeat and his team gained a swing of 12 IMPs and went on to win the Vanderbilt.

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