



# MARTY BERGEN'S

## SECRETS OF GOOD DEFENSE

Number 11

### Opening Leads vs. Notrump

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## #10 A Major Decision

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

♠ Q 10 8 7   ♥ Q 10 8 7   ♦ J 5   ♣ J 4 2

With ♦ J 5 and ♣ J 4 2, I'm not leading either minor. The only choice is: Which major should you lead? Too many players relish leading their LHO's suit. In fact, leading from strength thru known length usually gives declarer an extra trick by "finessing yourself." Be eager to lead your LHO's suit *only* when:

- You have a sequence, OR
- Declarer is known to be short in the suit, OR
- Partner requested that you lead the suit.

On this hand, your hearts are poorly placed *in front* of dummy, so you have no chance to develop tricks in that suit. However, your spades are well-placed *behind* declarer, so the correct lead is the ♠7.

Contract: 3NT  
Lead: ♠7

North  
♠ 9 2  
♥ AJ 5 4  
♦ Q 10 4 3  
♣ A 7 5

West  
♠ Q 10 8 7  
♥ Q 10 8 7  
♦ J 5  
♣ J 4 2

East  
♠ K 6 3  
♥ K 6 3  
♦ 7 6 2  
♣ Q 10 6 3

South  
♠ AJ 5 4  
♥ 9 2  
♦ AK 9 8  
♣ K 9 8

South has 8 winners. The ♠7 lead doesn't help him. If you lead the ♥7, North ducks and East wins his ♥K. North's ♥AJ behind your ♥Q 10 gives South trick #9.