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775. TRUCKS

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775 TRUCKS

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Isolating a menace

Opening lead — four of diamonds

When the deal occurred, declarer won the diamond with the queen and, without giving the matter much thought, led the queen of clubs. West took the queen with the ace and realized that if South had a singleton spade, which seemed likely on the bidding, his only chance to defeat the contract was to put his partner on lead in order

West therefore led a low spade at trick three, refraining from cashing the ace first (which would have handed South the contract). As West hoped, East won with the king and had no trouble diagnosing the reason for his partner's underlead of the ace. He returned a diamond at trick four for West to ruff, and declarer went down one.

South clearly did not give enough consideration to the bidding and the opening lead. West's opening bid and rebid, combined with his double of five clubs, indicated that he had virtually all the missing high cards. It was also practically certain that the opening diamond lead was a singleton.

With all these clues confronting him, declarer should have concentrated all his efforts on making sure that East could not gain the lead to give his partner a diamond ruff.

To forestall that possibility, South should have cashed the ace of hearts at trick two and led the queen of hearts at trick three. After East follows low, declarer discards his spade loser on the queen. West wins with the king, but there is no longer any way for him to reach East for a diamond ruff. The only other trick the defenders can score is the ace of clubs, and South winds up making the doubled game.

Tomorrow: A necessary assumption.
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Bruce Collins, District Sales Manager
606-326-2674 or email bcollins@dailyindependent.com
Monday through Friday 8AM-5PM

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To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

7							3	
	4					1	9	
		8		3	1	6	7	4
3			7			4		
	8	1						7
			8	1	4			
			3	2	8	7	6	
		5				2	1	3
2	3	6	1	5	7	8		

Difficulty: ★★

Answer to previous puzzle

7	6	2	8	3	5	4	1	9
3	9	4	1	7	6	5	8	2
1	5	8	9	2	4	6	7	3
5	1	9	3	8	7	2	6	4
8	3	6	4	5	2	7	9	1
4	2	7	6	9	1	3	5	8
9	7	5	2	4	8	1	3	6
6	4	3	5	1	9	8	2	7
2	8	1	7	6	3	9	4	5

Difficulty: ★★

4
1
8
6
7
5
8/12
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Size	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
1x1	\$120	\$110	\$98	\$88
1x2	\$220	\$199	\$176	\$150
1x3	\$315	\$258	\$231	\$198
1x4	\$408	\$341	\$325	\$288