

Results: January 1, 2025 Volume 7, Issue 7

U21 USA2 Final-Congrats Team Ge

2	Ge	142	53	52	37		
3	He	59	9	21	29	w/d	

U26W STAGE 2

[Link to Live LoveBridge Results \(Cross-IMPs not official: doesn't include carryover\)](#)

Ranking	Pair #	Player	Player	TOTAL	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Carryover
1	9	Cecilia Ehrlichmar	Katie Hwang [SW]	92.85	15.24	14.93	8.70	12.39	10.90	14.25	11.54	4.90
2	5	Helen Chow [NE]	Nicole Qian [SW]	87.04	12.64	9.58	17.50	7.36	18.70	12.80	8.46	0.00
3	6	Ella Su [NE]	Sharon Chu [SW]	86.96	16.71	5.07	2.50	4.02	16.98	19.54	17.12	5.02
4	1	Jasmine Bakhshi [NE]	Kyra Helmbold [SV]	81.00	14.11	6.89	11.30	12.64	10.82	0.46	10.94	13.84
5	8	Ava Donnellan [NE]	Margot Donnellan	79.03	3.29	13.11	11.25	16.24	9.10	7.20	17.73	1.11
6	10	Katie Sullivan [NE]	Caroline Zhao [SW]	71.35	4.76	10.42	14.95	15.98	9.18	12.48	2.27	1.30
7	3	Yichen Cai [NE]	Helena Hsieh [SW]	68.00	7.36	18.46	5.05	3.76	3.02	5.75	9.06	15.54
8	4	Leyi Chen [NE]	Maiya Clouse [SW]	37.76	5.89	1.54	8.75	7.61	1.30	7.52	2.88	2.27

U16 STAGE 2

[Link to Live LoveBridge Results \(Cross-IMPs not official: doesn't include carryover\)](#)

Ranking	Pair #	Player	Player	TOTAL	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Carryover
1	5	Jeff Xiao [NE]	Andrew Chen [SV]	131.33	11.46	16.69	10.73	18.32	19.53	18.71	17.52	18.37
2	9	Adam Hemmer [N]	Kate Lee [SW]	85.53	11.68	15.10	14.67	12.56	15.75	1.29	7.20	7.28
3	3	Kevin Wei [NE]	Arjun Chaunal [S]	82.83	14.28	10.32	5.33	10.41	12.31	17.08	2.48	10.62
4	2	Jayson Lee [NE]	Lee Blocher [SW]	74.94	8.32	11.91	9.27	3.84	7.69	14.25	10.65	9.00
5	7	Chloe Chow [NE]	Elii Shuster [SW]	71.43	5.72	3.31	11.51	7.44	11.48	5.75	15.37	10.86
6	4	Kyo Chen [NE]	Zinnia Meyer [SW]	67.31	8.54	8.09	3.09	9.59	8.52	7.38	12.80	9.30
7	12	Ryan Wolpert [NE]	Kaining Sheng [S]	63.41	17.42	4.90	16.91	16.16	0.47	2.92	4.63	0.00
8	11	Demian Li [NE]	Brandon Wolpert	49.57	2.58	9.68	8.49	1.68	4.25	12.62	9.35	0.92

All Kidding Aside

S A M E R U N I T E D S T A T E S B R I D G E
C H A M P I O N S H I P S

U21 USA2

Brandon Ge & Arthur Gong, Kayden Ge & Brian Zhang, and Charlie Chen & Eric Xiao



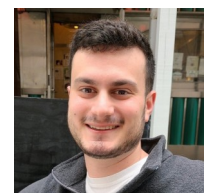
Happy New Year!

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
3	Chen - wins tie	191	46	78	39	28	
4	Eckert	110	29	10	25	46	

The colored score boxes indicate the team with seating rights for that segment of play.

U26 USA2 Semifinal

- USBF President**
Aaron Silverstein
- USBF Vice President**
Lynn Baker
- USBF COO & Secretary**
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**
Max Schireson
- USBF Recorder**
Jack Oest
- Bulletin Editor & Chief Communications Officer**
Suzi Subeck
- Directors**
McKenzie Myers, DIC
Chris Wiegand
- Tournament Organizer**
Jan Martel
- Chief Technical Expert**
Al Hollander
- Online VuGraph Organizer**
- Appeals Administrators**
Suzi Subeck, Chairman
- Appeals Panel:**
Cheri Bjerkan
Bart Bramley
Kitty Cooper
Rich DeMartino
Mitch Dunitz
Marty Fleisher
Ron Gerard
Marty Hirschman
George Jacobs
Ralph Katz
Bobby Levin
Chip Martel
Adam Wildavsky
- Junior Committee Chair**
Joe Stokes
- Junior Program Co-Ordinator**
Alex Kolesnik
- Junior Training Camp Officials**
Amber Lin
Kevin Rosenberg



Teams Entered

U26:

Brezak	Luke Brezak, Capt Alan Hale	Chris Staszak Cade Johnson
Chen	Tianyang Chen, Capt Philip Wang Fangqing Yuan	Rory Xiao Jonathan Yue Will Duan
Eckert	Kai Eckert, Capt Matthew Rippin	Isaac Stone Levi Katriel
Jiang	Kevin Jiang, Capt Ryan Carlson Zihao Sun	Alex Safonov Andy Zhang Jingcheng Dai
Kolesnik	Finn Kolesnik, Capt Harrison Luba Ethan Wood	Michael Xu Bo Han Zhu Michael Hu
Wan	Stella Wan, Capt Brent Xiao Cornelius Duffie	Olivia Schireson Richard Jeng Jacob Freeman
Yang	Yanlai Yang, Capt Ruizhe Wang	Renyu Li Eric Shao
Yeung	Alan Yeung, Capt Evan Alexis	Dan Irish Rohan Srivastava
Zheng	Lixin Zheng, Capt Vasisht Ganesh	Weilong Shen Tom Ye

U21:

Ge	Brandon Ge, Capt Brian Zhang Charlie Chen	Kayden Ge Arthur Gong Eric Xiao
He	Edward He, Capt Nathan Gong	Eric He Jason Yao
Hoagland	Michael Hoagland, Capt Owen Jiang	James Fu Eric White
Silverstein	Avery Silverstein, Capt Sam Pahk Ethan Derman	Daniel Balof Michael Haas Jack Boge
Xie	Ethan Xie, Capt Kyle Lin	Zach Posternak Keith Lin

RONA (GIRLS):

2024 Sam Amer Junior USBC - U26W PAIRS

Stephanie Bergman
Rachel Yoken

Leyi Chen
Maiya Clouse

Alexandra Deschenes
Avery Liang

Ava Donnellan
Margot Donnellan

Cecilia Ehrlichman
Katie Hwang

Kyra Helmbold
Jasmine Bakhshi

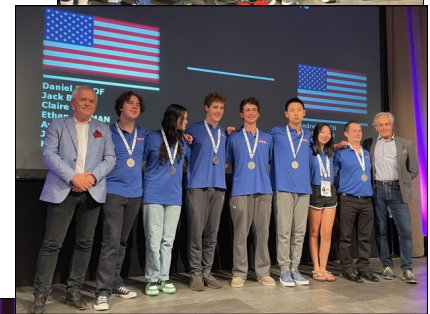
Helena Hsieh
Yichen Cai

Nicole Qian
Helen Chow

Ella Su
Sharon Chu

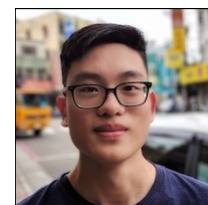
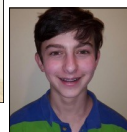
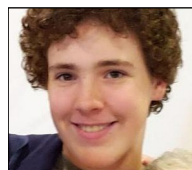
Katie Sullivan
Caroline Zhao

Yihan Xiao
Zara Weiss



2024 Sam Amer Junior USBC - U16 PAIRS

Beatriz Aldana	Ethan Wu
Andrew Chen	Jeff Xiao
Ryo Chen	Jeremy Zhang
Joseph Hoagland	Clayton Kaneko
Jayson Lee	Lee Blocher
Kate Lee	Adam Hemmer
Zinnia Meyer	Kyo Chen
Eli Shuster	Chloe Chow
Kevin Wei	Arjun Chaunal
Brandon Wolpert	Demian Li
Ryan Wolpert	Kaining Sheng
Alex Xu	Derek Deschenes



U26 Schedule:

Schedules continued on pages 4 and 5

Day	Date	Time (EST)	Boards
Training Camp			
Thursday	Dec 26	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Optional evening session
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Details TBA
ROUND ROBIN			
Saturday	Dec 28	5:30-6:35 6:50-7:55 8:10-9:15	Match 1 Boards 1-10 Match 2 Boards 11-20 Match 3 Boards 21-30
Sunday	Dec 29	11:00-12:05 12:20-1:25 1:40-2:45 3:45-4:55 6:10-7:15 7:30-8:35	Match 4 Boards 31-40 Match 5 Boards 41-50 Match 6 Boards 51-60 60 Minute BREAK Match 7 Boards 61-70 Match 8 Boards 71-80 Match 9 Boards 81-90
USA1 Semifinal & USA2 Stage 1			
Monday	Dec 30	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
USA1 Final & USA2 Quarterfinal			
Tuesday	Dec 31	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
USA2 Semifinal			
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:00 - 11:45 12:00 - 1:45 3:00 - 4:45 5:00 - 6:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
USA2 Final			
Thursday	Jan 2	10:00 - 11:45 12:00 - 1:45 3:00 - 4:45 5:00 - 6:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60

Those French! They have a different word for everything.

Steve Martin



Jan Kamras, Jessica Udomsriungruang, Cecilia Ehrlichman, Morgan Johnstone, Jacob Freeman, Katie Sullivan, Khan Tran Nguyen, NPC Michael Shuster, Eric Laurent



Bruce Zhu, Harrison Luba, Nathan Gong, Michael Xu, Arthur Gong, Olivia Schireson, NPC Roger Lee

"California, Texas and Arkansas," Tom stated.

"I want to screw it in," Tom said inscrutably.

"Those dying embers need more air!" Tom bellowed.

"I'm pretty sure I have COVID," Tom coughed dryly.

"Worthless cow's got no milk," Tom uttered.

"Lousy dog doesn't even have a pedigree," Tom muttered.

Tom Swifties

"One day we'll discover a planet with four suns," Tom fore-shadowed.

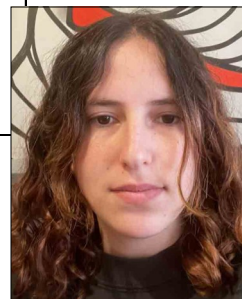
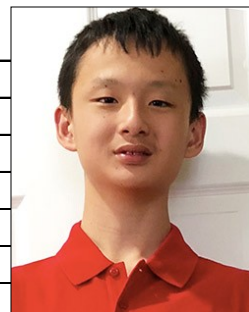
"I'm so bummed, my favorite Swedish car company folded," Tom sobbed.

"Mark, it's great to see you Mark," Tom remarked.

"I just had a bad accident with the power saw," Tom said off-handedly.

Tournament Schedules... continued from page 3

U21 Schedule			
Day	Date	Time (EST)	Boards
Training Camp			
Thursday	Dec 26	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Optional evening session
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 3:15 PM	Details TBA
ROUND ROBIN			
Saturday	Dec 28	4:10-5:15	Match 1 Boards 1-10
		5:30-6:35	Match 2 Boards 11-20
		6:50-7:55	Match 3 Boards 21-30
		8:10-9:15	Match 4 Boards 31-40
Sunday	Dec 29	11:00-12:05	Match 5 Boards 41-50
		12:20-1:25	Match 6 Boards 51-60
		1:40-2:45	Match 7 Boards 61-70
			60 Minute BREAK
		3:45-4:55	Match 8 Boards 71-80
		6:10-7:15	Match 9 Boards 81-90
	7:30-8:35	Match 10 Boards 91-100 [exact board # might change]	
USA1 Semifinal			
Monday	Dec 30	11:00 - 12:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:00 - 2:45	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			75 minute Break
		4:00 - 5:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	6:00 - 7:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60	
USA1 Final & USA2 Semifinal			
Tuesday	Dec 31	11:00 - 12:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:00 - 2:45	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			75 minute Break
		4:00 - 5:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	6:00 - 7:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60	
USA2 final			
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:00 - 11:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		12:00 - 1:45	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			75 minute Break
		3:00 - 4:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	5:00 - 6:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60	



Atlanta Sports Teams...

Atlanta Falcons: The Atlanta Falcons are a professional American football team based in Atlanta. The Falcons compete in the National Football League as a member of the National Football Conference South division.

Atlanta Hawks: The Atlanta Hawks are an American professional basketball team based in Atlanta. The Hawks compete in the National Basketball Association as a member of the Southeast Division of the Eastern Conference. The team plays its home games at State Farm Arena.

Atlanta Silverbacks: One of Atlanta's professional sports teams that flies below the radar of the average sports fan. The Silverbacks actually brought the first professional sports championship to Atlanta. Silverbacks games are a very family friendly option for sports since the cost is low in comparison to the other professional teams in Atlanta. Plus, since the stadium is pretty small (expansions will eventually have it up to 15,000 seats) it's a close view of the action. The Silverbacks play in the first division of the USL. Check out a game, especially if you've never seen professional soccer in person. Like hockey, you get a much better feel for the game and the speed involved when you see it live.

U26W SCHEDULE			
Training Camp			
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
STAGE 1			
Sunday	Dec 29	10:30 - 11:30	Round 1 Boards 1-9
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 2 Boards 10-18
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 3 Boards 19-27 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 4 Boards 28-36
Monday	Dec 30	4:10 - 5:10	Round 5 Boards 37-45
		5:20 - 6:20	Round 6 Boards 46-54
		10:30 - 11:30	Round 7 Boards 55-63
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 8 Boards 64-72
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 9 Boards 73-81 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 10 Boards 82-90
		4:10 - 5:10	Round 11 Boards 91-99
		STAGE 2	
Tuesday	Dec 31	10:30 - 12:15	Round 1 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 2 Boards 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:15	Round 3 Boards 31-45
		5:30 - 7:15	Round 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:30 - 12:15	Round 5 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 6 Boards 16-30 60 MINUTE BREAK
		3:15 - 5:00	Round 7 Boards 31-45

U16 SCHEDULE			
Training Camp			
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
STAGE 1			
Sunday	Dec 29	10:30 - 11:30	Round 1 Boards 1-9
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 2 Boards 10-18
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 3 Boards 19-27 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 4 Boards 28-36
Monday	Dec 30	4:10 - 5:10	Round 5 Boards 37-45
		5:20 - 6:20	Round 6 Boards 46-54
		10:30 - 11:30	Round 7 Boards 55-63
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 8 Boards 64-72
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 9 Boards 73-81 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 10 Boards 82-90
		4:10 - 5:10	Round 11 Boards 91-99
		STAGE 2	
Tuesday	Dec 31	10:30 - 12:15	Round 1 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 2 Boards 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:15	Round 3 Boards 31-45
		5:30 - 7:15	Round 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:30 - 12:15	Round 5 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 6 Boards 16-30 60 MINUTE BREAK
		3:15 - 5:00	Round 7 Boards 31-45

Tournament Schedules... continued

No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area. This applies to both players AND kibitzers. Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule. Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door. The USBF reserves the right to randomly wand attendees as they enter the playing field.



Pun-ctuality!

Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician.

My boss is going to fire the employee with the worst posture. I have a hunch, it might be me.

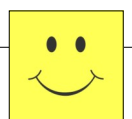
I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. I just couldn't concentrate.

If money doesn't grow on trees, how come banks have branches?

When my boss asked me who was stupid, me or him, I told him he doesn't hire stupid people.

The other day I asked the banker to check my balance, so she pushed me.



From Tuesday's U26W...

BOARD: 4
DEALER: WEST
VULNERABLE: ALL

♠ KJ75
 ♥ T98
 ♦ AK52
 ♣ Q9

♠ AQ43
 ♥ 64
 ♦ 4
 ♣ KJ7632

♠ 8
 ♥ KQJ753
 ♦ Q963
 ♣ AT

♠ T962
 ♥ A2
 ♦ JT87
 ♣ 854

Par: -620

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	3	6	3	6	3
E	9	6	10	6	7
W	:	7	:	7	8

		By	1	=	★	P
	Helena Hsieh - Yichen Cai	Helen Chow - Nicole Qian	4♥	E	♦J	-1 100 6.67 -6.67
	Jasmine Bakhshi - Kyra Helmbold	Leyi Chen - Maiya Clouse	4♥	E	♦J	-1 100 6.67 -6.67
	Cecilia Ehrlichman - Katie Hwang	Caroline Zhao - Katie Sullivan	2♥	E	♦J	+3 -200 -1.33 1.33
	Ava Donnellan - Margot Donnellan	Ella Su - Sharon Chu	4♥	E	♦7	+1 -650 -12.00 12.00

Looking at all four hands, it is easy to see that the heart game will be successful if declarer disdains the club finesse... of course, there's that little rule: 8 ever, 9 never ... and then again, absent a spade opening led, if the club queen does not come down in two rounds, declarer can simply ruff out the CQ and return to dummy with the SA to enjoy the long clubs.

No one faced the spade lead so no one faced the second challenge.

Only Ella Su was successful in both bidding and making game.

Margot Donnellan led the D7. Her sister, Ava, won the ace and shifted to a heart. Margot won that ace and continued hearts. Su won her queen and extracted the last trump. She cashed the CA, led a club to the king and when the queen fell, she had 11 tricks. +450

One other declarer took 11 tricks but she was declaring a part score.

At the other two tables the declarers took the club finesse and were defeated in 4H when their opponents scored 2 diamonds, 1 heart, and 1 club .

12 IMPs to Chu/Su

BOARD: 12
DEALER: WEST
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ Q76
 ♥ QT75
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ AKQT

♠ 952
 ♥ AKJ62
 ♦ 87
 ♣ J43

♠ AJT
 ♥ 8
 ♦ KT43
 ♣ 98652

Par: 600

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	8	8	8	9	9
E	4	4	4	4	4
W	5	:	:	3	:

♠ K843
 ♥ 943
 ♦ AJ952
 ♣ 7

		By	=	★	P
Ava Donnellan - Margot Donnellan	Ella Su - Sharon Chu	3N	N	♦3	= 600 10.00 -10.00
Helena Hsieh - Yichen Cai	Helen Chow - Nicole Qian	2N	N	♣5	+1 150 -3.00 3.00
Cecilia Ehrlichman - Katie Hwang	Caroline Zhao - Katie Sullivan	2N	N	♣5	+1 150 -3.00 3.00
Jasmine Bakhshi -	Leyi Chen - Maiya Clouse	2N	N	♦3	= 120 -4.00 4.00

On Tuesday, the Donnellan sisters were the only pair in the U26W IMP pairs to reach the aggressive vulnerable 3NT game on Board 12.

At every table, North opened 1NT, 15-17. At every table, South bid Stayman. At every table, North showed four cards in the heart suit.

At every table but the Donnellans, South invited with 2NT and North, with a minimum, quietly passed.

Margot Donnellan knows how valuable close vulnerable games can be in IMPs.

She and her sister practice with their grandmother several times a week and Grandma has taught them a lot about the game. Margot did not give her sister a chance to turn down the invitation. She bid the game herself. Su led a diamond and Ava came to 3 diamonds, 4 clubs, 1 heart and 1 spade for nine winners. +600 for 10 IMPs to the Donnellans

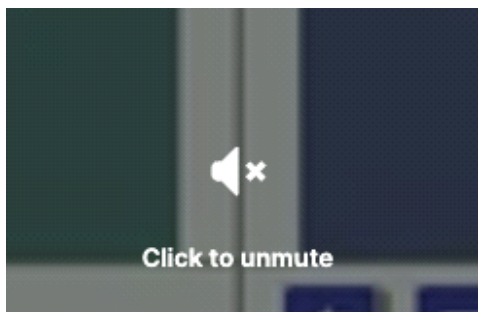
Kibitzing...

Our site is undergoing a migration and some things may not work as expected. We appreciate your patience.

There will be delayed kibitzing for all of the 2024 Sam Amer JUSBCs on LoveBridge

You can follow the Sam Amer JUSBC on the [LoveBridge website](#). There will often be voice commentary, which you can access by clicking on the TV icon.

If you get to the voice commentary and there is no sound, you need to "unmute." When you first get to the page, there is a small icon of a speaker in the middle of your screen with an x on it:

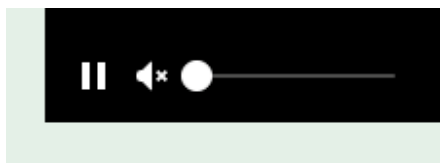


Just click on it to unmute.



Watching on Love
Bridge
Is always quite fun.
I set my pace
And watch till I'm
done!

If you miss that icon, you can still unmute - move your cursor to the bottom left of the screen and you should see a similar icon:



Click on the speaker. It should unmute your machine.

Vugraph is delayed for 30 minutes or until all tables have completed play on a board, whichever is later.

[LoveBridge website](#)

(Kibitzing, continued on page 9)

Battle of Atlanta, (July 22, 1864)

American Civil War engagement was part of the Union's summer Atlanta Campaign. Union Major Generals William Tecumseh Sherman and James B. McPherson successfully defended against a Confederate offensive from Lieut. Gen. John Bell Hood on the eastern outskirts of Atlanta, Ga. The Union victory inflicted heavy casualties on Hood's army, but the city would not fall to Sherman until September.

Of the 34,863 Union troops engaged at the Battle of Atlanta, 3,722 were killed, wounded, captured, or reported missing. Confederate forces suffered an estimated 5,500 casualties of the 40,438 engaged. The battle had special significance for Abraham Lincoln, who was seeking a second term as U.S. president. The war had been dragging on longer than either the Union or the Confederacy expected, and war dissatisfaction was already threatening Lincoln's chances of reelection.

Kibitzing Schedule (EDT)

For all **KO days** of the 2024 Sam Amer JUSBCs, kibitzing times will be :

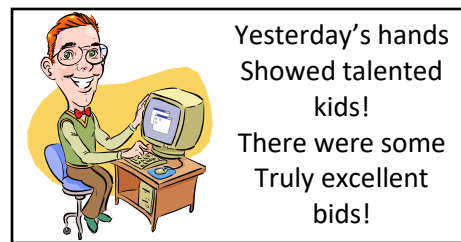
Segment 1: 11:30 am EDT

Segment 2: 1:30 pm EDT

BREAK

Segment 3: 4:30 pm EDT

Segment 4: 6:30 pm EDT



For **Round Robin days**, each kibitzing segment will start 30 minutes after play starts. There will not be voice commentary during the Round Robins.

More information

Do you want to listen to commentary? Search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentary. If it doesn't do anything, no one is commenting.

Nail biting!

Do you want to be deeply involved? Choose the "Match view" at the starting page of your event. Your screen will be divided into four small screens – two of them showing the two tables of the match you choose, the other two having the scoresheet for your match and the current scores of the other matches. In the 2x2 view you can also personalize the content in all your windows. (The 2x2 view is not available on mobiles.)

Think together!

When watching a table, click on a name and choose "Kibitz". Instead of seeing all 4 hands, you will see what the player sees, and you can decide what you would do and see the result.

More Information:

Be well informed and tell your friends: while following the play, you can click many items. The image of the sticker with the number of the board (upper right) takes you to the results of the board, in the bottom right corner the arrow takes you to the scoresheet, the DDS shows the double dummy analyses, beside that there is a button for the other table of the same match, at the top left corner you can see the bidding with alerts and the explanations (mouse over), the tricks already played, and the double dummy analysis for the available number of tricks with the par score.

Navigation icons:

While surfing here and there, there are icons to help you. You can always go back to the main page with the "house" or to the standings with the "scores". If you cannot see the icons, move your mouse, or touch your screen and they pop up immediately. There is also a built-in back button because the back button of your browser will always take you to the starting page. If this is not what you wanted, push next in your browser and you can continue where you were.

Replay:

After the event you can find every board from every table easily. While replaying the hands, the only surprise can be the way "next board" button works. If you have arrived from a scoresheet, it navigates through the scoresheet. If you have arrived from a screen where the results were shown for a given board then the same buttons move you through the list. Push every button and enjoy!

Sudoku

Answer to Logic Puzzle on Page 13

\$40	Clinton	Troop Seven	1991
\$60	Shannon	Magic Marbles	1990
\$45	Horace	Countershot	1989
\$65	Ivan	Gator Attack	1988
\$35	Lloyd	Blaster Boy	1987
\$90	Oscar	AWOL Alert	1986

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

Sudoku 1

Answers to Sudokus on Page 14

Sudoku 2

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

The First Playing Cards

From sleight of hand magician Cardini to cardistry expert Oliver Sogard, artists have spent the past century imbuing playing cards with their own mystic qualities. But the history of playing cards, what little known there is, has drawn from its own sources of wonder as the design evolved over millennia. For one, playing cards link directly to the Gregorian calendar and the seasons. So, as we ring in the New Year, here's a brief history behind the meaning of playing cards in relation to the calendar year.

Before the advent of cards, games were played with sticks, bones, or stones. These makeshift "cards," engraved using fire and knives, were also used for money, gambling, and religious rituals. The first cards were likely invented during the Tang Dynasty (618 to 907 CE) with the invention of paper and woodblock printing. A reference to a "leaf game" that royalty would play is made in the 868 CE text the "Collection of Miscellanea" by Su E. Some scholars point to this as the first card game (though the game may have involved dice or a combination of dice and cards).

From China, playing cards spread to India and Persia, then to Egypt during the Mamluk Era (1250 to 1517 CE). Card games next followed the trade routes into Europe as merchants journeyed through the Italian and Iberian peninsulas.

By 1582, the Gregorian calendar, which we use today, was

largely adopted by Europe by direction of Pope Gregory XIII. Over time, playing cards began to correlate with the year, the seasons, and the solstices. The 52 cards are said to represent the 52 weeks in a year. To underline the numerical magic of playing cards, the twelve royals (King, Queen, and Knaves, i.e., Jack), represent the twelve months of the year. Meanwhile, each suit of thirteen cards represents the thirteen weeks in each season.

The four playing card suits represent the four seasons/solstices, while other historians have said it may allude to the four phases of the moon. Suits may also parallel the four elements found in nature: hearts for water, clubs for fire, diamonds for earth and spades for air.

Puzzle Page

Happy New Year

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

S E I B A B N E W Y E A R S E V E Y
G C H A M P A G N E T Y I M N S T T
E N S S U E T H C D A N C E D R H R
S Q I N F E T O O D M U A Y O E I A
E F C G F I N A S L S U E R F K R P
D H E F N F R R R R I A S E D A T S
A I U S E I A S E B R D N I E M Y K
R B B T T E S M T I E S A F C E F R
A M T A Y I A N N O R L A Y E S I O
P I S W L E V R O E F T E E M I R W
N D E A R L E I N I H J V C B O S E
D N E T R V O N T E T E A S E N T R
A I S W I A A O R I N A S N R O H I
Y G Y E O B I T N T E I R R U K C F
O H W I N E I T S S K S I O H A T S
N T Y L I M A F N O I S A C C O R T
E T S A E F S N O I T U L O S E R Y
S R E Z I T E P P A Y F R I E N D S

APPETIZERS
BABIES
BALLOONS
BANNERS
BUFFET
CELEBRATE
CHAMPAGNE
CONFETTI
DANCE
DAY ONE

DECORATIONS
END OF DECEMBER
EVENTS
FAMILY
FATHER TIME
FEAST
FESTIVITIES
FIREWORKS
FIRST OF JANUARY
FRIENDS

HATS
HOLIDAY
HORNS
KISS
MIDNIGHT
MUSIC
NEW YEARS DAY
NEW YEARS EVE
NOISEMAKERS
OCCASION

PARADES
PARTY
PUNCH
RESOLUTIONS
SINGING
STREAMERS
THIRTY FIRST
TIARAS
WINE
YEAR IN REVIEW

More Tom Swifties...

"I'm losing my hair," Tom bawled.

"I have a BA in social work," said Tom with a degree of concern.

"It made the grass wet," said Tom after due consideration.

"I can't believe I ate the whole pineapple!" Tom said dolefully.

"That's the last time I pet a lion," Tom said offhandedly.

"I shouldn't sleep on railroad tracks," Tom said, beside himself.

"Let's play a C, E, and G," said Tom's band, in accord.

"The doctor had to remove my left ventricle," said Tom half-heartedly.

"I like ragged margins," said Tom without justification.

"I'd better repeat that SOS message," said Tom remorsefully.

"You call this a musical?" asked Les miserably.

"I will take the prisoner downstairs" said Tom condescendingly

_"What's with all the excitement around the beehive?" Tom buzzed.

_"These scissors won't cut," said Tom snippily.

_"These lines keep intersecting," Tom said crossly.

_"Where's the water?" Tom asked dryly.

_"I'll dig another ditch around the castle," Tom said remotely.

T "This tastes terrible," Tom said bitterly.

T "I just stepped in some poison ivy!" Tom said, itching to go home.

_"That campfire is blazing!" Tom said warmly.

_"I'm really good at protecting things," Tom said defensively.

_"I like your bells," Tom chimed.

_"I wish I'd never come to the North Pole," Tom said coldly.

_"This hike is quite slow," Tom said sluggishly.

_"My power went out," Tom said darkly.

_"I only have vegetables," Tom said fruitlessly.

"I got a touch screen computer," Tom pointed out.

"Give up! I have the ace of diamonds, clubs and spades," Tom said heartlessly.

"The night sky is beautiful," Tom said starry-eyed.

"Being a wolf is awesome," Tom howled.

"Math is my favorite subject," Tom added.

_"I flunked my exam," Tom said testily.

_"My favorite singer is Taylor," Tom said swiftly.



From the Editor:

If you find an interesting hand and want to call my attention to it, please send the board #, the names of the players, the session in which it was played and any relevant comments to me at:

stansubeck@prodigy.net

Extra eyes and ears are always appreciated! Please address any Letters to the Editor, tournament tales or fun photos to that address as well.

Thank you! I will include as much as I can daily! And give you credit!

Suzi

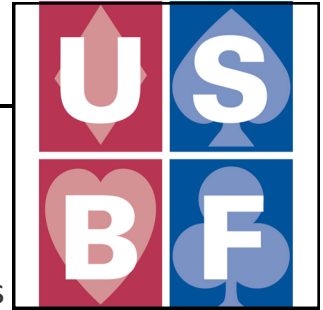
		Video Games						Buyers						Prices					
		AWOL Alert	Blaster Boy	Countershot	Gator Attack	Magic Marbles	Troop Seven	Clinton	Horace	Ivan	Lloyd	Oscar	Shannon	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$60	\$65	\$90
Years	1986																		
	1987																		
	1988																		
	1989																		
	1990																		
	1991																		
Prices	\$35																		
	\$40																		
	\$45																		
	\$60																		
	\$65																		
	\$90																		
Buyers	Clinton																		
	Horace																		
	Ivan																		
	Lloyd																		
	Oscar																		
	Shannon																		

Hard Logic Puzzle...

Answer to Puzzle can be found on page 10

Years	Video Games	Buyers	Prices
1986			
1987			
1988			
1989			
1990			
1991			

- The video game bought by Lloyd came out 2 years before Countershot.
- AWOL Alert came out 3 years before the game that sold for \$45.
- The video game bought by Clinton is either Countershot or the video game that came out in 1991.
- The six video games are Troop Seven, the video game that came out in 1990, the game that sold for \$65, the game that came out in 1987, the one that sold for \$90 and the game that came out in 1989.
- Gator Attack didn't come out in 1987.
- Neither Magic Marbles nor the game that sold for \$45 is the video game that came out in 1988.
- Magic Marbles came out 2 years after the video game that sold for \$65.
- Of the game that sold for \$60 and the one that sold for \$45, one was purchased by Horace and the other came out in 1990.
- Neither the video game that sold for \$90 nor the video game that came out in 1989 is Gator Attack.
- The game that sold for \$40 wasn't bought by Lloyd.
- The one bought by Oscar came out sometime before the video game that sold for \$35.
- The game that sold for \$65 wasn't bought by Shannon.



USBF Supporting Membership

If you don't want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators.

The USBF is an **all-volunteer** organization.

Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

Sudoku 1

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

Sudoku 2

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

Puzzles on Page 10

They say that no two people see color the exact same way, so really, color is just a pigment of your imagination.

Did you hear about the guy who pickpocketed a dwarf?
How could anybody stoop so low?!

Why don't chemists like puns? All the best ones argon.

Pun-ishment!

How can you tell when a clock is hungry? It goes back four seconds.

Fiction always talks about the drama and mystery surrounding a departed relative's will. But most of the time, it's a dead giveaway.

What do you call it when a cat wins first place at a dog show? A cat-has-trophy!

Meet the Players:



An Interview with Finn Kolesnik from Funbridge...

At what age did you start playing bridge?

I started playing Bridge when I was 13 because I was offered 300\$ by my local bridge organization to learn. After a few months I really started liking it and never stopped.

What is your best bridge memory?

I have a lot of amazing memories related to bridge but my favorite was certainly winning the Soloway KO this last fall. This is one of our most important events of the year in the US and it was always my biggest goal to win an event like this. The furthest I'd been before was the round of 16, so the feeling to make a winning run

with many comebacks was beyond belief.

What would you say to encourage someone to take up bridge?

Bridge is one of the most interesting things you will ever try. There is always more depth to find. The best part of playing bridge though is all the lifetime friends you will meet. We have a tight knit community of smart and interesting people.

What do you do when you are not playing bridge?

When I'm not playing bridge I really like to be active and seeing the world to contrast how much I play bridge. I also enjoy playing other games and spending time with a few close friends.

Why have you decided to joined the Funbridge team?

I joined the Funbridge team to promote junior bridge and to travel to some awesome tournaments with my friends.

Funbridge username: Finn Kolesnik

Nickname: The Machine

Playing style: Aggressive and fast.

Date of birth: May 27th 2004

Playing record

3rd Blue Ribbon Pairs 2019

1st U21 Pairs 2022

1st U26 teams 2022

1st Soloway KO 2022

1st Gold Coast Pairs 2023

Finn heralds from a prominent bridge playing family in California. His dad, Alex, is the USBF Junior Training Program Coordinator, taking over for Michael Rosenberg when Rosenberg retired a few years ago. His sister, Emma, is a fine player on her own. She is recently engaged to Adam Grossack who will soon become Finn's brother-in-law.

Here, in Atlanta, Finn is playing in the U26 competition as captain of the Kolesnik team with Harrison Luba, Ethan Wood, Michael Xu, Michael Hu and Bo Han Zhu.



In this episode of Table Talks, Steve Raine sits down with 16-year-old U.S. junior bridge star, Avery Silverstein, a silver medalist at the World Championship and the daughter of professional bridge player, owner and operator of the Cavendish Bridge Club in New York, and President of the USBF, Aaron Silverstein. Her mom, Gennifer Binder, is an excellent player in her own right.

Avery shares her journey to winning silver with the USA 2 junior team, her love for playing behind screens, and the joy of partnering with her dad in major events.

Young Bridge Star Avery Silverstein on Her World Championship Journey - Table Talks #5

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Along the way, she gives tips for new partnerships, and reflects on the challenges of fast play in junior events. She discusses past

NABCs, her early days at bridge tournaments, and her plans for more competitive events. Watch until the end to see Steve get "beer-ed"—by Avery's expert play... well, actually his own!

Avery is playing in this JUSBC as part of the U21 Silversten squad. Her teammates include: Daniel Balof, Sam Pakh, Michael Haas, Ethan Derman and Jack Boge. At this time, Avery's team is in second place.

On Board 31 in the U26W, Helen Chow and Nicole Qian were the only pair to reach slam. With the favorable lie of the spade and diamond suits, 12 tricks are available N/S in clubs, diamonds and NT.

Every South opened a weak 2D and when partner asked about hand and suit quality, South showed bad hand, good suit.

When Cai was North, she ended the auction with 3NT.

When Ehrlichman was North, she made a try for slam with 4NT over 3D but Hwang

did not think her hand was good enough to accept the invite and passed.

At the table where Chen was North and Clouse was South and the Donnellan sisters were East/West, Clouse opened 2D and Margot overcalled 2H. It's aggressive on JT sixth, but she does have a singleton diamond and 6-4 distribution validating her overcall... and she is at favorable vulnerability... The only danger could be missing a spade fit if her side has one. On this hand they do not.

Chen bid 3NT over 2H knowing that her HAK9 would hold up and a heart lead wasn't threatening.

Bidding and making slam was worth 12 IMPs to Chow/Qian

From Wednesday's U26 Final

Richard Jeng started in the USBF Junior years ago. He has come a long way since then!

Barry Goren was one of the original mentors and worked with Michael Rosenberg to bring the program to life. Barry called my attention to Board 21 from the U26 Final.

In the auction, N/S bid aggressively to 6S with a lot of handy distribution... singletons between in all 3 side suits!

E/W competed in H's and C's.

Jeng led the C6 and Xiao won his king. Applying good sense and wanting to defeat the contract before anything bad could happen, Xiao played his HA. Declarer played the H7 and Jeng, wise beyond his years, wanting to collect ALL the tricks his side could, **discarded his KING under partner's ACE as a STRONG signal for diamonds!** Xiao worked it out and played the D6 for Jeng to ruff! Jeng ruffed and the slam went two light +200 East/West.

At the other table, the hand was interesting too. Jeng's teammates, Duffie and Freeman ended the auction with a double of 6H.

It was touch and go after Freeman led the DA! Only a spade lead defeats 6H if declarer chooses to finesse South for the HQ, bringing home the trump suit with no losers. . Without the spade lead, declarer can pick up the trump suit and discard his spade losers on the long clubs. While finessing the HQ is not percentage without knowing of extreme distribution, the possibility of a 2-2 split in hearts is better but only very slightly.

Xu's jump to 4H, intended to make it difficult for N/S in the bidding may have actually made it more difficult for Xu himself to know how to play the hand. Xu ruffed the opening diamond and tracked the HJ, hoping to sucker a cover from Freeman. Freeman was up to the ruse. He followed low in tempo. Xu went with the blind odds and rose with dummy's ace, ultimately yielding down one. 11 IMPs to Wan

1.	Fangqing Yuan - Philip Wang	Chen (U26)	2.11	63.33	30
2.	Brian Zhang - Kayden Ge	Ge (U21)	1.84	82.67	45
3.	Tianyang Chen - Will Duan	Chen (U26)	1.16	52.00	45
4.	Charlie Chen - Eric Xiao	Ge (U21)	0.70	31.33	45
5.	Jonathan Yue - Rory Xiao	Chen (U26)	-0.28	-12.67	45
6.	Edward He - Eric He	He (U21)	-0.75	-33.67	45
7.	Isaac Stone - Kai Eckert	Eckert (U26)	-0.80	-48.00	60
8.	Levi Katriel - Matthew Rippin	Eckert (U26)	-0.91	-54.67	60
9.	Jason Yao - Nathan Gong	He (U21)	-1.79	-80.33	45

1.	Bo Han Zhu - Harrison Luba	Kolesnik (U26)	0.94	85.00	90
2.	Finn Kolesnik - Michael Xu	Kolesnik (U26)	0.40	24.00	60
3.	Ethan Wood - Michael Hu	Kolesnik (U26)	0.05	3.00	60
4.	Cornelius Duffie - Jacob Freeman	Wan (U26)	-0.24	-18.00	75
5.	Brent Xiao - Richard Jeng	Wan (U26)	-0.35	-26.00	75
6.	Olivia Schireson - Stella Wan	Wan (U26)	-1.13	-68.00	60

1.	Isaac Stone - Kai Eckert	Eckert (U26)	1.95	117.29	60
2.	Levi Katriel - Matthew Rippin	Eckert (U26)	1.92	115.14	60
3.	Fangqing Yuan - Philip Wang	Chen (U26)	1.76	52.86	30
4.	Avery Silverstein - Daniel Balof	Silverstein (U21)	1.31	59.14	45
5.	Tianyang Chen - Will Duan	Chen (U26)	1.20	54.14	45
6.	Jason Yao - Nathan Gong	He (U21)	0.74	44.43	60
7.	Jonathan Yue - Rory Xiao	Chen (U26)	0.60	27.14	45
8.	Michael Haas - Sam Pahk	Silverstein (U21)	0.51	15.43	30
9.	Ethan Derman - Jack Boge	Silverstein (U21)	0.19	8.43	45
10.	Edward He - Eric He	He (U21)	0.09	5.14	60
11.	Charlie Chen - Eric Xiao	Ge (U21)	0.05	2.43	45
12.	Ethan Xie - Zach Posternak	Xie (U21)	-0.09	-5.14	60
13.	Brian Zhang - Kayden Ge	Ge (U21)	-0.30	-13.57	45
14.	Evan Alexis - Rohan Srivastava	Yeung (U26)	-0.73	-43.57	60
15.	Keith Lin - Kyle Lin	Xie (U21)	-0.74	-44.43	60
16.	Alan Yeung - Dan Irish	Yeung (U26)	-1.51	-90.57	60
17.	Lixin Zheng - Weilong Shen	Zheng (U26)	-1.91	-114.71	60
18.	Tom Ye - Vasisht Ganesh	Zheng (U26)	-1.96	-117.71	60
19.	Arthur Gong - Brandon Ge	Ge (U21)	-2.40	-71.86	30

Cross IMPS

Thanks to Xin Ge, Joe Stokes and Jan Martel for providing pics of winning teams...

Keep 'em coming!

Ed.



Congratulations to U6 pair competition winners Andrew Chen & Jeff Xiao, 2nd place Adam Hemmer & Kate Lee, and 3rd place Kevin Wei & Arjun Chaunal. All 3 of those pairs will represent the USBF at the 2025 WYBTC. Three additional players will be chosen for the WYBTC, and the 6 pairs will be assigned to teams, by a selection committee.

From Wednesday's U16 Competition

BOARD: 48
DEALER: WEST
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ AKQ7
 ♥ A98
 ♦ AKJ
 ♣ 765

♠ J3
 ♥ T65432
 ♦ QT862
 ♣

♠ T98542
 ♥ 743
 ♣ JT94

Par: 1520

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	13	7	11	8	13
S	12	:	:	:	:
EW	0	2	2	3	0

♠ 6
 ♥ KQJ7
 ♦ 95
 ♣ AKQ832

	By								
Andrew Chen - Jeff Xiao	Brandon Wolpert - Demian Li	7N	N	♠T	=	1520	13.00	-13.00	
Arjun Chaunal - Kevin Wei	Kyo Chen - Zinnia Meyer	6N	N	♣J	+1	1020	1.67	-1.67	
Jayson Lee - Lee Blocher	Kaining Sheng - Ryan Wolpert	6N	N	♠8	=	990	0.67	-0.67	
Chloe Chow - Eli Shuster	Adam Hemmer - Kate Lee	7♣x	S	♥4	-1	-100	-15.33	15.33	

3C=Stayman
7C=to play

The screenshot shows a hand from the U16 IMP Pairs competition. The bidding table is as follows:

W	N	E	S
PASS	2NT	PASS	3♣
PASS	3♣	PASS	7♣
PASS	PASS	DBL	PASS
PASS	PASS		

The card layout is: North (Chloe Chow) has ♠ AKQ7, ♥ A98, ♦ AKJ, ♣ 765; South (Eli Shuster) has ♠ 6, ♥ KQJ7, ♦ 95, ♣ AKQ832; West (Kate Lee) has ♠ J3, ♥ T65432, ♦ QT862, ♣; East (Adam Hemmer) has ♠ T98542, ♥ 743, ♣ JT94.

On Board 48 in the U16 IMP Pairs competition, 7NT is successful by either North or South with the DQ in the pocket.

7C, however, is only successful from North since West can lead a heart for East to ruff. When Shuster/Chow bid 7C from the South, Hemmer took advantage of the opportunity and doubled for an "unusual" lead (generally either dummy's first bid suit or partner's longest suit), implying a void somewhere in his hand.

Hearts were Lee's longest suit. She listened and led the H4; Hemmer ruffed and it was over at trick one.

There are two good lessons on this hand, lessons that generally only come with years of table experience... First, for East/West, Hemmer's double in the pass out seat was dangerous. It gave his opponents the chance to correct the contract from the beatable 7C to the unbeatable 7NT, and Lee might well have had a heart lead without the double. (OTOH, Against grand slams, players usually lead trump so that tilts the situation slightly in Hemmer's favor.)

Second, for North/South, knowing that the double was almost certainly predicated on an opening ruff, one or the could have looked at their great stoppers in the outside suits and corrected to 7NT. While this could produce a worse result when wrong, the gain it produces when right is large enough to justify the risk.

These situations are difficult for even the most experienced experts. They are REALLY tricky in a U16 field. The good news is that these are lessons that will stay with the players and they have learned them earlier than most. We are all proud of the level of competition exhibited in the U16 field at this event. The youth have been amazing!

BOARD: 53
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ J
♥ Q8765
♦ 9852
♣ J75

♠ K6
♥ 3
♦ KQJT43
♣ AQ86

♠ Q42
♥ AK94
♦ A76
♣ K32

♠ AT98753
♥ JT2
♦
♣ T94

Par: -990

NS	1	1	4	5	1
E	10	11	8	7	12
W	9	:	7	:	:

	By	♠	=	★	P
Arjun Chaunal - Kevin Wei	Kyo Chen - Zinnia Meyer	6♦ W	♠ J -1	50	10.33 -10.33
Chloe Chow - Eli Shuster	Adam Hemmer - Kate Lee	5♦ W	♠ J =	-400	-2.33 2.33
Jayson Lee - Lee Blocher	Kaining Sheng - Ryan Wolpert	5♦ W	♠ J =	-400	-2.33 2.33
Andrew Chen - Jeff Xiao	Brandon Wolpert - Demian Li	3N E	♠ T +4	-520	-5.67 5.67

This hand is Interesting because it follows Board 48 on page 19. It is another example of a hand where slam in suit (on this hand, diamonds) fails on a ruff while slam in NT is cold on any lead.

HOME CARDS SPLIT

W	N	E	S
PASS	1NT	PASS	PASS
6♦	PASS	PASS	PASS

1NT=15-17
6D=Natural

LoveBridge

♠ J
♥ Q8765
♦ 9852
♣ J75

N Kevin Wei

♠ K6
♥ 3
♦ KQJT43
♣ AQ86

W Zinnia Meyer

♠ Q42
♥ AK94
♦ A76
♣ K32

E Kyo Chen

♠ AT98753
♥ JT2
♦
♣ T94

S Arjun Chaunal

WEST 6♦

DDS

SOUTH III Final score

Meyer and Chen were the only pair to bid slam.

Wei, holding the singleton spade, had no trouble leading it.

Chaunal won the ace and gave his partner the spade ruff. Done at trick 2!

It is easy to understand Meyer's choice in this auction. From her perspective, the decision to bid 6D rather than 6NT looks clear with a singleton heart and six good trumps with which to ruff.

Perhaps Meyer had a way to slow down the bidding, set trump in a forcing auction to allow E/W the time and space it needs to explore for controls in the side suits. Had Meyer known of partner's HAK, bidding NT would have been more palatable.

This is another situation analogous to the one on Board 48 where table time pays off... and learning these lessons as a U16 player will prove most valuable now and in years to come.