

Team "Trials" and Tribulations

Into the Semi-finals

Deutsch beat Meltzer, 269-243, in a very exciting match that went down to the wire.

Harris withdrew early, losing 291-174 to Ekeblad.

Schwartz beat O'Rourke, 286-235, in a match that started out very tight but got progressively wider as it went along.

Today we will see Deutsch vs. Nickell (fresh from their bye) and Ekeblad vs. Schwartz in the semi-finals. These matches will be televised on Bridge Base Online. Tune in to see the action up close and personal, complete with expert commentary.

A generous contribution from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange has made our daily broadcasts possible. We appreciate their support.



In the Women's playoff 2, it is Quinn over Sulgrove in another nailbiter. Quinn joins Narasimhan at the Venice Cup in Shanghai this fall. Go Girls!!

The Russians Are Coming...

Natasha is tired of waiting on Boris. Is time he bring her Vodka and tonic, please. Natasha would have been perfect in the quarterfinals of the Open if Billy and Ronnie made some 3-pointers in overtime. Actually, Natasha is still perfect (just ask her), but Billy and Ronnie are not... yes, that must be it.

Natasha picked a Nickell-Schwartz final at the beginning of this marathon and that is what we'll see in two days. Line up to pay the vig ...

It's Nick over Seymon by a neck and Schwartz takes Ekeblad and relay club by three lengths in the mile-and-a-quarter race today.

By the way, it's supposed to be rainy in Chicago ... no chicken bidders, please, or we will have mudder cluckers rounding the track!

(more Boris on pages 5 and beyond)

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Remaining USBC Teams

Deutsch: Seymon Deutsch, Gary Cohler, Bart Bramley, Sidney Lazard, Grant Baze, John Kranyak

Ekeblad: Russell Ekeblad, Ron Rubin, Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby

Harris: Martin Harris, Jacob Morgan, Dan Gerstman, Tom Carmichael

Meltzer: Rose Meltzer, Kyle Larsen, Alan Sontag, Roger Bates, Billy Cohen, Ron Smith

Nickell (bye ►semi-finals): Frank Nickell, Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell

O'Rourke: Lou Ann O'Rourke, Marc Jacobus, Curtis Cheek, Joe Grue, Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson

Schwartz: Richard Schwartz, Michael Becker, Drew Casen, Jim Krekorian, David Berkowitz, Larry Cohen

Remaining USWBC Teams

Narasimhan: Hansa Narasimhan, Irina Levitina, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby

Quinn: Shawn Quinn, Sue Picus, Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Rozanne Pollack

Sulgrove: Kathleen Sulgrove, Candace Griffey, Laurie Kranyak, Linda McGarry, Cindy Bernstein, Sally Wheeler

HOSPITALITY INFORMATION from Barbara Nudelman, Joan Gerard, and Rena Hetzer

The hospitality suite is in room 3321. It will be open for **Breakfast** at 8:30 AM till game time for all players.

USBC Lunch: Lunch will be served in the suite at the mid-afternoon break (approximately 2:45 PM). We may be a bit crowded but we'll see to it that everyone gets to eat.

USWBC Lunch – There are no actual lunch breaks, but we will try and offer a more substantial breakfast in the hour just before your starting time. Of course, you are welcome to join us for the regular lunch break the rest of the week.

The suite will be open most days until the completion of play for soft drinks and snacks.

Hotel Restaurants: **Metro:** 6am - 10pm daily; **Tre Cena:** Breakfast: 6:30am-11 AM M-F, 7am-11am S/S; Lunch 11am-5pm daily; Dinner 5pm-10pm daily; **Knuckles** 4:30pm-12am Su-F, 4:30pm-1am Saturday

Check in-room for **room service menu** ... available 6am-12am.

Once again, we are here to feed you and listen to all of your trials and tribulations at the bridge table. If you need something just ask... we might not be able to help but we will surely try.

"Dying is a very dull, dreary affair.

And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it."

- W. Somerset Maugham

Getting to the Airport in Comfort:

There is no shuttle from the hotel to the airport. We recommend that you call **Windy City Limousine** to arrange transportation **(866) 94-WINDY**. Their drivers are courteous and helpful ... and unlike many of the cab drivers, they speak English and know their way around the city and the suburbs.

"I think age is a very high price to pay for maturity."

-Tom Stoppard

Signs of the Times

Sign on an electrician's truck: -Let us remove your shorts.
 Maternity Clothes Shop: -We are open on labor day.
 Non-smoking area: -If we see you smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action.
 On a Maternity Room Door: -"Push, Push, Push"
 On a Front Door: -Everyone on the premises is a vegetarian except the dog.
 Optometrist's Office: -If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.
 Scientist's Door: -Gone Fission
 Taxidermist Window: -We really know our stuff.
 Podiatrist's Window: -Time wounds all heels.
 Butcher's window: -Let me meat your needs.
 Used Car Lot:: -Second Hand cars in first crash condition
 Sign on Fence: -Salesmen welcome. Dog food is expensive."
 Car Dealership: -The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.
 Muffler Shop: -No appointment necessary. We'll hear you coming.
 Hotel: -"Help!" We need inn - experienced people.
 Butcher's Window: -Pleased to meat you.
 Auto Body Shop: -May we have the next dents?
 Sign in an office: -We shoot every 3rd salesman, and the 2nd one just left.
 Veterinarians: -Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay! Waiting Room
 The Electric Company: -We would be delighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be.
 Beauty Shop: -Dye now!
 Garbage Truck: -We've got what it takes to take what you've got.
 Computer Store: -Out for a quick byte
 Diner Window: -Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up.
 Bowling Alley: -Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop.
 Cafeteria: -Shoes are required to eat in the cafeteria. Socks can eat any place they want.
 Music Library: -Bach in a minuet.
 Funeral Home: -Drive carefully, we'll wait.

At College Orientation...

On the first day of college, the Dean addressed the students, pointing out some of the rules.

"The female dormitory will be out-of-bounds for all male students, and the male dormitory to the female students. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$25 the first time."

He continued, "Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$50. Being caught a third time will incur a hefty fine of \$100. Are there any questions?"

At this point, a male student in the crowd inquired: "How much for a season pass?"

"A hippie is someone who looks like Tarzan, walks like Jane and smells like Cheetah."

Short funny quotes by, Ronald Reagan

"We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful what we pretend to be."

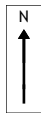
- Kurt Vonnegut

Committee Decisions - Appeal #2 - Jeff Polisner, scribe

With Both Vul and S the dealer, the auction went:

♠ T76
♥ A642
♦ K2
♣ J752

♠ QJ542
♥ K9
♦ 74
♣ KT96



♠ AK
♥ T875
♦ J86
♣ AQ84

| South | West | North | East |
|----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Cheek | Krekorian | Grue | Casen |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♣ |
| 2♦ | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

♠ 983
♥ QJ3
♦ AQT953
♣ 3

After West bid 3♠ and the tray went through the screen, East wrote a note to North which said S+C, however North read the "S" as a "5" and thought that East was telling him that West had 5 or more clubs. Before the opening lead, North clarified that the 3♠ bid was a fit-showing jump.

North led the ♦K and then switched to the ♥A after which the contract could no longer be defeated. North contended that his defense was predicated on West having 5 clubs and that it would be necessary to cash his heart winner before playing the second diamond in order to achieve a possible trump promotion. The Director ruled that there was no misinformation, that any ambiguity could have been clarified by North before the fatal ♥A play, and allowed the table result of +620 E/W to stand. N/S appealed.

The Appeals Committee considered the defense assuming that North's defense was predicated on Misinformation, even though the Appeals Committee did not believe that Misinformation was present. The Appeals Committee unanimously believed that if North really believed he was told that West had 5 clubs, the failure to shift to the ♣J (suit preference for hearts after South presumably would trump the club) was such poor bridge so as to break any possible link from the alleged Misinformation to the result. The Appeals Committee felt that this appeal was close to being without merit, but did not award an Appeal Without Merit Warning and upheld the Directors ruling.

Barry Rigal, Chairman
Richard Colker
Jeffrey Polisner

Good Cards and Bad Cards ... or Just a Lot of Bull!

A cocky U.S. Department of Agriculture representative stopped at a farm and talked with an old farmer. He told the farmer, "I need to inspect your farm."

The old farmer said, "OK, but don't go in that field right over yonder."

The Agriculture representative said, "Mister, I have the authority of the United States Government with me. **See this card?** The card means I am allowed to go **WHEREVER I WISH** on any agricultural land. No questions asked or answered. **Have I made myself clear?** Do you understand?"

The farmer nodded politely and went about his farm chores.

Later, the farmer heard loud screams and saw the Agriculture Rep running for the fence and close behind was the farmer's huge-horned prize bull.

The bull was gaining on the Agriculture Rep with every step. The Rep was clearly terrified, so farmer immediately threw down his tools, ran to the fence and shouted out...

"Your card! Your card! Show him your card!"

Endplayed into Making!

Board 76
Dealer: W
N/S Vul.

♠ AT
♥ AQJ
♦ Q8542
♣ AJ2

♠ K53
♥ 87
♦ K7
♣ 986543



♠ Q972
♥ KT53
♦ JT93
♣ K

♠ J864
♥ 9642
♦ A6
♣ QT7

| West - Baze | North - Smith | East - Cohler | South - B. Cohen |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Pass | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Opening Lead: ♠2

Ronnie Smith found a way to endplay himself into making the contract. The opening spade rode to the King and Ace. Hoping that diamonds might split, Ronnie led a small diamond to the ace and a diamond toward his queen. West won the king, and returned the eight of hearts to the queen and king. Cohler continued hearts to Ron's ace. Ron put Gary back in with the queen of spades. Gary led a low heart to Ron's jack, setting up Gary's ten. Ron tried the queen of diamonds and got the bad news. He made his last ditch effort, knowing it was most likely futile. He laid down the ace of clubs. When the singleton king fell, he was home free.

In the other room where Sontag/Bates were West/East respectively and Kranyak/Deutsch were South/North respectively, they had the same auction. Bates chose to lead the ♦T. (Rusinow) Deutsch won the ace in dummy and took the losing heart finesse. Bates continued with a low diamond to his partner's king and a heart came back. Seymon won the jack and cashed the queen of diamonds. He cashed his ace of hearts and exited his hand with a low diamond, hoping the long heart was not in the hand with the long diamond. Unlucky for him, it was. Bates cashed the heart, exited a spade to the king and ace. Eventually Seymon conceded a spade to the queen and when the smoke cleared, the contract was down two for 13 IMP's to Meltzer.

More from the Kremlin...

Editor's note: Boris was so busy drowning his sorrows in vodka and borscht, that his predictions for yesterday arrived well after we went to press. Here was what he had to say: I know it may be too late but Boris celebrated big win too much. Very large head today.

Boris pick good in Open, but in Women's, Boris so bad, it like trying to milk goat with sewing machine.

Sulgrove had butterflies for breakfast and team of champions came on strong. Congratulations to Hansa and the pips. You deserved your victory. Sulgrove is in tough shape. Being only one match away and then having to play again is tough. Quinn pulled off the upset of Baker as Boris foretell and feeling good about themselves.

Looks like two in a row as Quinn joins the Jills and the Debbies, Joanna and Irina in Shanghai.

In Open, Ekeblad gets early w/d from Harris. Nice run, fellows. Schwartz is too tough for O'Rourke and Deutsch continues to upset all those who get in the way. Deutsch by less than a slam.

Natasha, please be a good girl, speak quietly and bring ice and vodka for poor Boris.

(more from Boris and Natasha later in this issue)



FYI: Visas are required for entrance to Shanghai. Barbara Nudelman has the necessary applications in the hospitality suite. Victorious teams should stop by there and pick up their apps from Barbara.

Letters of Invitation are **not** needed to attend the competition.

Major Trouble in the USWBC Playoff Two

Closed Room

Board 49
 Dealer: N
 None Vul.

♠ 9764
 ♥ Q7
 ♦ QT43
 ♣ KO4

♠ K52
 ♥ J6
 ♦ A872
 ♣ J873

♠ AQJT83
 ♥ A43
 ♦ 5
 ♣ T95

♠ KT9852
 ♦ KJ96
 ♣ A62



| North | East | South | West |
|---------|------|---------|---------|
| Kranyak | Disa | McGarry | Pollack |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Open Room

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|---------|-------|-----------|
| Picus | Wheeler | Quinn | Bernstein |
| 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

In the Closed Room, Disa led a small club to the queen and ace. Kranyak led a heart to the ace, cashed the ace of spades, pitching a club from hand, and took a ruffing finesse in spades, pitching her other club while Disa won her spade king. At this point, Disa cashed her ace of diamonds and declarer had eleven tricks.

In the Open Room, Quinn made a tactically poor decision... to play in her 6-0 fit instead of her 6-3 fit. Admittedly, her spade suit is a self sustaining, one loser suit, and partner COULD have held two or three card support. And if partner does not have support, she might have trouble reaching dummy to use the spade suit in hearts if trump split badly. Whatever the logic, Bernstein led the club king, ducked. The queen of clubs was continued with Quinn winning the ace in dummy. She tried the king of diamonds, hoping for a duck, but it was not to be. Wheeler won her ace, cashed her good club, and with three tricks in for the defense, she could sit back and wait for her trump king. 11 IMPs to Sulgrove.

Marriage Encounter

After having a too much to drink, a man drives home from the city, his car weaving violently all over the road. A cop pulls him over. "So," says the cop to the driver, "where have you been?"

"Why, I've been to the pub of course," slurs the drunk.

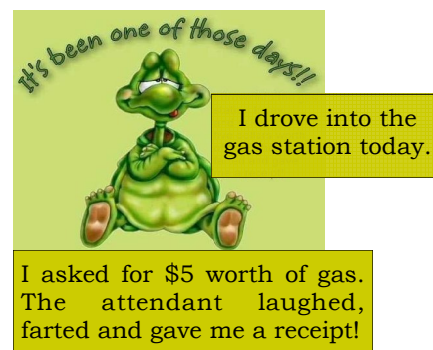
"Well," says the cop, "it looks like you've had quite a few to drink this evening."

"I did all right," the drunk says with a smile.

"Did you know," says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms across his chest, "that a few intersections back, your wife fell out of your car?"

"Oh, thank heavens," sighs the drunk.

"For a minute there, I thought I'd gone deaf."



Get Well Soon ... Ron Johnston, Chicago's most beloved director and DIC at most our area tournaments, suffered a heart attack on Tuesday night. The doctors checked him out and said the heart attack was mild but he has to undergo a bypass surgery. We wish Ron the best and will keep you posted when we know more.

Puzzles and Games Page

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| ME1111ONEONE | LAL | MCE MCE MCE | DOCTOR DOCTOR |
| FAMILYYYYYY | eiln pu | 10 10 2 10 10 | dom |
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| UR UR UR UR | | | |
| _____ RANGE | E A R T H | PAWALKRK | |

Solution at the bottom of the page (no peeking, Sally!)

Dear Tide:

I am writing to say what an excellent product you have! I've used it all of my married life, as my Mom always told me it was the best.

Now that I am in my fifties I find it even better! In fact, about a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse. My inconsiderate and uncaring husband started to belittle me about how clumsy I was, and generally started becoming a pain in the neck. One thing led to another and somehow I ended up with his blood on my new white blouse! I grabbed my bottle of Tide with bleach alternative, and to my Surprise and satisfaction, all of the stains came out! In fact, the stains came out so well the detectives who came by yesterday told me that the DNA tests on my blouse were negative and then my attorney called and said that I was no longer considered a suspect in the disappearance of my husband.

What a relief! Going through menopause is bad enough without being a murder suspect! I thank you, once again, for having a great product. Well, gotta go, have to write to the Hefty bag people.

someone's following me, all mixed up, three blind mice, paradox, extended family, line up in alphabetical order, too in-
tense, domineer, tuna fish, you're out of line or right you are, point blank range, down to earth, walk in the park

Good Judgement Pays Off ... from the Quinn/Sulgrove Match

Board 18
Dealer: N
N/S Vul.

♠ A98753
♥ 93
♦ K92
♣ J8

Sue Picus made a thoughtful bid on this hand that paid off with a 6 IMP gain when she reached the good 3NT game. Sue held the East cards. She opened 2♣ and rebid 2♥ rather than 2NT as was bid at the other table. The 2NT bid ended the auction. Over 2♥, Quinn bid 3♣ (second negative) even though she held four card trump support. Picus now bid 3NT, and with her four triple three hand, Quinn passed.

♠ T62
♥ 7654
♦ Q74
♣ 965



♠ QJ4
♥ AKQ82
♦ JT
♣ AKQ

Even though the East hand has only 22 high card points, it is too good to rebid 2NT with an excellent five card suit and great spot cards.

♠ K
♥ JT
♦ A8653
♣ T7432

Picus/Quinn used perfect judgment on the auction and landed in the best possible spot.

From the Open Round of 16

This board produced a major swing for the Deutsch team in a very tight match. East/West have a lot of high card strength, but their two hands do not fit well. North/South passed throughout.

Board 53
Dealer: N
N/S Vul.

♠ J2
♥ T63
♦ T65
♣ A7643

Closed Room

Open Room

♠ A6
♥ 97
♦ J872
♣ KQJ82



♠ KQ95
♥ AKJ854
♦ AK7
♣

♠ T8743
♥ Q2
♦ Q93
♣ T95

| Closed Room | | Open Room | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| East | West | East | West |
| Carmichael | Gerstman | Stansby | Martel |
| 2♣ | 3♣ | 2♣ | 2♠ (controls) |
| 3♥ | 3♠ | 3♥ | 4♣ |
| 4♠ | 5♣ | 4♥ | 4♠ |
| 5♦ | 6♣ | 6♠ | 6NT |
| 6♥ | Pass | Pass | |

No slam is a bargain on these cards. Against 6NT, North led a small diamond which rode to South's queen. Of course, at this point, North was hoping for a club return and was truly disappointed to see partner return a spade. But all's well that end's well. Declarer took a heart finesse into the South hand and South now played a club to defeat 6NT two tricks.

In the closed room, Carmichael received the favorable lead of a diamond from the queen. When the jack held in dummy, Carmichael crossed to the ace of hearts and played three rounds of spades, ruffing the third spade in dummy. When this was overruffed, Carmichael won the return and was forced to drop the queen doubleton of hearts, making six hearts for a big swing.

Incidentally, in one of the other matches, six hearts was bid and went down two on a non-diamond lead.

THE WORLD'S EASIEST QUIZ? (NOT!)

(Answers at the bottom - NO CHEATING)

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) How long did the Thirty Years War last?

OLD FOLKS GOLFING ...

The first old feller said, "Oh, I had three riders today."

The second bent-over guy said, "I had the most riders ever. I had five."

The third old man said, "I had 7 riders, the same as last time."

The last ancient sport said, "I beat my old record. I had 12 riders today. Aren't you fellers proud of me?"

After they went into the men's locker room, a lady club member who had heard the old gents telling of their game went to the Pro and said, "I've been playing golf here for 30 years and thought I knew all the terminology of the game,..... But what in the world is a rider?"

The pro said, "A rider is when you hit the ball far enough to get in the golf cart and ride to it."

You Know You're Living in 2007 When...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

1) 116 years, from 1337 to 1453.

2) Ecuador.

3) From sheep and horses.

4) November. The Russian calendar was 13 days behind ours.

5) Squirrel fur.

6) The Latin name was Insularia Canaria - Island of the Dogs.

7) Albert. When he came to the throne in 1936 he respected the wish of Queen Victoria that no future king should ever be called Albert.

8) crimson.

9) New Zealand.

10) Thirty years, of course. From 1618 to 1648.

Rueful Rabbit Does the Windy City

Board 8

Dealer: E

None Vul.



♥ KT96

♦ Q876

♣ J8642

♠ KQJT543

♥ QJ

♦ T

♣ 953



♠ 96

♥ A52

♦ AKJ3

♣ AKT7

♠ A872

♥ 8743

♦ 9542

♣ Q

Quinn opened 3♠ and Picus Blackwooded and bid six. Wheeler led the ten of hearts and Quinn rose ace, intending to discard her jack of hearts on dummy's diamond king. She accidentally discarded the three of clubs.

When Bernstein took the ace of spades, she assumed Quinn's distribution was 7-1-1-4 and she returned a diamond. Honestly, how could there be a heart loser on the hand after that pitch?

Quinn was now forced to run the spades. As luck would have it, North was now squeezed in hearts and clubs! Making six for a push ... and a great story!

Victor Mollo would be proud of his Rueful Rabbit.

Boris Spills the Beans ... but NOT the Borscht ...

Boris lift a Vodka to all of yesterday's winners. To **Ekeblad**, whom Boris predicted would get a W/D. To **Schwartz**, who Boris predicted would prevail. And a hearty congratulations to team **Deutsch**, whom Boris predicted would upset the powerful Meltzer squad. He said less than a slam. It was 2 imps with 4 boards to go.

Although they lost, Boris salutes **Meltzer** and **O'Rourke** on their fine showing and kudos to a gutsy 4 handed **Harris** team who went farther than most thought.

On to business. Starting today, we separate the caviar from the herring, the Borscht from the beets, the chickens from the rocking chair. This is the semi-finals!

We welcome a brand new team, **Nickell**. They have won everything in sight in the last 15 years and wish to become USA 2. They may very well do so. But they are sad today and it could affect play. Dick Freeman had to put down his bright green sport coat recently. They had been together since the 70's. In spite of that, **Nickell** will put an end to the **Deutsch**'s team's wonderful run. It will be close for a day but then the fresh horses will say "neigh" to Seymon.

Ekeblad-Schwartz, Schwartz-Ekeblad, hmmmmm. Even Rocky the flying squirrel would have a hard time picking this. Ekeblad has only played 2 days, but quite well, while **Schwartz** has been in stroke for a week already. These two will play each other so tough but the survivor will get **Nickell** as a reward. Boris prefers to sit on fence but gets no rubles without predictions so here goes: If Schwartz can build up lead of at least 32 today, they can prevail. If Ekeblad is in front after today, they will stay there. Boris think Schwartz playing well enough to win. Schwartz by 2 touchdowns.

Congratulations to **Quinn** becoming USA2 four handed and big time salute to **Sulgrove** who came close twice. Now maybe Natasha go home and Boris get some good sleep.

Congratulations to the Mighty Quinn! Go USA 2!