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A Bad Trump Split Is Fine In Top Consolation Play

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Consolation events, for competitors who fail to make a cut, are seldom played nowadays. When they are, there is a general lack of enthusiasm and the standard tends to be low.

A startling exception to this generalization occurred in the Cavendish Pairs in Las Vegas a week ago. The consolation was studded with partnerships of world renown: Peter Boyd and Steve Robinson; Larry Cohen and David Berkowitz; Bob Hamman and Nick Nickell; Zia Mahmood and Gabriel Chagas; Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace; Krzysztof Martens and Marek Szymanowski; Chip Martel and Lew Stansby; Fred Stewart and Kit Woolsey. This group would be favored to win against any team selected from the final.



They were all playing with great intensity, partly for pride and partly for cash. The winning pair, Enza Rossano and Antonio Vivaldi of Italy, and their financial backers collected \$44,800.

Even players who were out of contention were demonstrating great skill. On the diagramed deal, Adam Zakrzewski of Poland was playing three spades as South after West had cue-bid to show hearts and a minor suit. He allowed the club king to win the first trick, and West shifted to the heart jack. Dummy's queen was finessed successfully, and the diamond jack was run to West's queen.

The heart king was returned, and South won with the ace and took a winning diamond finesse. He then led to the club ace and played a trump, uncovering the bad split. Dummy's queen forced the ace, and East returned the spade jack, foreseeing that South would have to ruff a club with dummy's spade 10.

Zakrzewski led a diamond from dummy, although it did not matter. When East ruffed with the spade eight, he was allowed to win. The nine-five of trumps won the last two tricks over the seven-four.

South's apparently trivial five-spot had come into its own.