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BRIDGE

BRIDGE; Italian Team Captures Mixed-Pair Championship

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LILLE, France, Aug. 23— The World Mixed Pair Championship, the opening event of the 1998 world championships here, was won today by Antonio Vivaldi and Enza Rossano of Italy. The runners-up were Marc Bompis and Claude Blouquit of France, with two Danish experts, Jens and Sabin Auken coming in third.

In the World Par competition, completed Saturday, the winner was Michael Rosenberg of Tuckahoe, N.Y. Two other American experts, Bart Bramley of Chicago and Eric Rodwell of Naperville, Fla., finished second and third. The winner won a prize of \$35,000.



In the diagramed deal from the Mixed Pairs, two American pairs were in opposition. Dan Morse, sitting East, bounced into six no-trump after his left-hand opponent, Fred Stewart, opened an extremely weak weak-two-bid in spades and Joan Morse had overcalled in hearts. This would have succeeded, since the declarer only loses a heart trick.

However, the North player, Marinesa Letizia, ventured seven spades. Now the question was, how many down would seven spades go? Stewart lost six tricks: two trumps, two clubs, and one in each red suit. That was a penalty of 1400, just slightly better than the score 1440 that East-West would have collected in six no-trump. That would not be important at imp scoring, but it was decidedly profitable at match-points scoring.