



One needs to remember that the 4321 point system is a guideline. The location of the outstanding points play a large role in high card evaluation.

After a notrump overcall, it is best to play systems on just for consistency. Stayman and transfers are on just as if the player opened one notrump instead of overcalling one notrump. North uses Stayman because of his four spades and partner does not deny four spades with his notrump overcall. Playing systems off, actually gives the partner more freedom to place the contract in a minor at the two-level.

North and South find their way to a game in notrump.

**The Lead:**

The four of hearts. West has not supported his partner's hearts because of a dearth of points. He has to lead the smallest heart to tell partner that he has three or more. West chooses a little heart and not top of nothing because everybody at the table knows which two hands have the heart strength.

The Jack of clubs is also a good lead because West will never get on lead again and his one point in clubs may help partner with his strength in that suit. When a player has very few points, he always makes a point of leading the suit where his points are.

**The play:**

Declarer will win three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and a club making his contract.

**Result:**

3NT= for +600

**Notes:**

-All the bridge columns may be viewed at <http://watsongallery.ca>.