

345. The Overcall Cuebid

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♠ AJ1096		
♥ K743		
♦ 85		
♣ 42		
♠ Q53		♠ 872
♥ Q85		♥ 1096
♦ KQ3		♦ J74
♣ KJ83		♣ 9765
		♠ K4
		♥ AJ2
		♦ A10962
		♣ AQ10

W	N	E	S
1 ♣	1 ♠	P	2 ♣
P	2 ♠	P	3NT
All Pass			

--North South Vulnerable--

When partner is an overcall, the cuebid is forcing and asks partner to rebid his suit if he is not a full opener. Bidding anything else shows a full opener. To make this cuebid, partner needs either 10 plus points and support or a full opener. Regardless, it is forcing and asks partner to explain.

The Bidding:

West, with 13 HCP's, opens One Club and North overcalls One Spade taking away the one-level. East did not need it and passes, and South cuebids because he has a good 18 HCP's.

It is probably real tempting for North to show his four-card Heart suit, but that would show a full opener. Therefore, North rebids his own suit showing less than a full opener. South does not care and jumps to 3NT.

Opening Lead:

From the bidding, North has stated he is less than a full opener and South did not care. South must have extra values and a passive lead is a must. This eliminates a Club as a safe lead. A Heart and a Diamond also seem risky. A Spade is the safest because as the opening bidder, he is likely to be finessed for any Spade values anyways. He leads the Spade Five not wanting the suit back which will become apparent when dummy is faced.

The Play:

Declarer wins the Spade Nine on the opening lead and runs the Diamond Eight through losing to the Queen. West exits a Spade. Declarer wins the Spade King and plays the Diamond Ace and then the Diamond Ten. West plays the Diamond King under the Ace and East wins the Diamond trick. He plays a Club, but it is too late. The declarer wins the Club Ace and cashes his winners. When the Spade Queen falls, he claims.

The Result:

Declarer loses two Diamonds and wins five Spades, two Hearts, three Diamonds and one Club for 11 tricks and +660. On a Club lead, declarer still makes +660.