



—Post-Gazette Photo

1967 North American team, l. to r., Murray, Kaplan, Capt. Rosenblum, Kantar, Kehela, Root and Roth.

Wins Tourney Here

Canadian Bridge Pair N. American Titlists

By JACK RYAN
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

A pair of Canadians charged on like Royal Northwest Mounties yesterday and took first place in the final session of the International Team Trials at the Penn-Sheraton Hotel.

Eric Murray and Sam Kehela of Toronto completed the rush they started Wednesday in walloping their opponents yesterday 73-11. They ended the five-day bridge finals with a score of 475.

Other Qualifiers

In second place were Edgar Kaplan of New York City and Norman Kay of Philadelphia with 460, while Al Roth and William Root both of New York City finished third with 426.

These six will comprise the North American Bridge team at the World Championships next May in Miami Beach, Fla. The non-playing team captain is Julius Rosenblum, of New Orleans.

Rosenblum said the tough competition in the trials brought out the six best players who face the formidable task of trying to knock the Italian "Blue Team" out of its lock in world play. The Italians have taken the world title for the past seven years in a row.

Rosenblum said the caliber of play here would "be good enough" to win in Miami Beach and he went on to express the hope that the "psychological factor" of playing perennial winners will not affect the North American team.

The final standings were:

4. B. J. Becker-Mrs. Dorothy Hayden; 422.
5. Sidney Lazard-George Ra-pee; 406.
6. Mrs. Hermine Baron-Meyer Schleifer; 387.

10. Lewis Mathe-Robert Hamman; 300.5.

Most of those who participated in the team trials will remain here for the 10-day Fall National Championships at which some 4,000 bridge buffs are expected to play, starting today.

The action will center at the Penn-Sheraton but several games are scheduled for the Roosevelt Hotel.

The heavy influx of bridge players caused a major traffic jam in the lobby of the Penn-Sheraton yesterday. The fall nationals carry with them points that players may apply to their total for Life Master rating—the gold medal of bridge play.

A Life Master must accumulate 300 points and only about 6,900 Americans of the more than 400,000 players have reached that rank.

Both the team trials and the fall nationals are sponsored and operated by the American Contract Bridge League.

Bridge: Italians Crush Americans To Win 9th World Title

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI BEACH, June 5— The great Italian Blue Team won the world championship title here yesterday, crushing the North American team in the final day of play. The final score was 338-227, giving the Italians their ninth consecutive victory in the Bermuda Bowl series.

The winning team was made up of Pietro Forquet of Naples, Benito Garozzo, Walter Avarelli, Giorgio Belladonna and Massimo D'Alelio of Rome, and Camillo Pabis Ticci of Florence. All of them played superbly throughout the final match, with Forquet and Garozzo carrying the greatest load by playing without rest until the issue was decided.

The North American players began the day 3 international match points in arrears and their title hopes slipped away without their playing particularly badly. Edgar Kaplan of New York and Norman Kay of Philadelphia bid an overoptimistic slam, and their teammates, Eric Murray and Sam Kehela of Toronto, had two minor misfortunes.

Alvin Roth and William Root of New York failed to reach a reasonable slam contract, and these lapses, combined with one extremely unlucky deal, built the Italian lead to 45 points at the dinner interval.

Moment of Comic Confusion

Any slight hopes the American team may have had of cutting back the deficit disappeared when the Italians quickly gained 30 more points.

The remaining play was virtually a formality, interrupted only by a moment of comic confusion. A deal appeared on the Bridge-O-Rama screen that had been played an hour earlier, and the organizers were reluctant to believe that the laws of probability had been suspended. It proved to be the result of a backroom recording error.

The biggest swing of the match occurred on the diagrammed deal, on which the Italians were doubled into game in both rooms. The deal might well have been passed out, but both East players chose to open in fourth seat.

On Bridge-O-Rama, Forquet reached four clubs after a competitive auction, and Murray felt entitled to double with his two aces opposite an opening bid. Against opponents who were clearly relying on distributional strength rather than high cards. A trump lead would have been well-judged. However, Murray led the diamond seven and when South took the nine with the ace he led a heart. East won with the king and shifted to his singleton trump, which was ducked to dummy's jack.

The declarer cashed the spade ace, ruffed a spade, and re-entered dummy with a diamond to the king for another spade ruff. He ruffed a heart and ruffed a diamond, which West was able to overruff and lead his remaining trump. South won with the king and ruffed out the heart ace. He gave up a diamond to East and South's heart queen made the last trick to give him the contract. This somewhat inaccurate defense gave Italy 710 points.

The Americans fared

NORTH

♠ A J 5
♥ J
♦ K 10 8 5 2
♣ J 7 6 2

WEST

♠ 10 8 7 4 2
♥ A 10 3
♦ 7 6
♣ A 8 5

EAST

♠ K Q 9 2
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ 9

SOUTH (D)

♠ 6
♥ Q 7 6 5 4
♦ A 4
♣ K Q 10 4 3

Both sides were vulnerable.

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠
4 ♣	D'ble.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the diamond seven.

equally badly in the closed room after Avarelli opened in fourth position with two clubs, a conventional Roman System did showing a three-suited hand of modest strength. West's response of two spades was passed to Root in the South position, who ventured a balancing double.

This could have steered his side into the desirable club part-score, but Roth chose to make a penalty pass with the North hand. As his partner was very likely to have a singleton spade, this was not a well-judged action, but he was perhaps influenced by the state of the match.

Belladonna, West, had no difficulty in making nine tricks for a score of 870, and Italy gained 17 international match points on the deal.

Book Describes 1967 Championship

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

THE annual misfortune of North American experts is once more on record. Less than eight weeks after the customary defeat of the North American team by the remarkable Italians in Miami Beach, Fla., the book of the 1967 World Championship is available. The publisher is the American Contract Bridge League, 125 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, Conn., 06830, and the 224-page book sells for \$2.50.

This year the book includes all 128 deals from the final match, of which about 40 are analyzed in depth. It also describes about 160 deals from the qualifying rounds in which France, Thailand and Venezuela participated.

Whether the Italians win consistently because their bidding systems are superior, because they have better partnerships, or because they have better technical judgment is a hotly-debated question.

Book Helps

The book of the championship contributes towards an answer by including a discussion of the differences between American and Italian methods. An index covering a three-year period will help the serious student to evaluate specific Italian devices.

The following deal from the book shows one case in which judgment rather than system was responsible for an American loss against Italy.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K63	♠ A J 9 4	♠ A J 8 7 5	♠ K
♥ 9 6 4 2	♥ A J 8 7 5	♥ A 9 7	♥ —
♦ K Q J 5 3 2	♦ A 9 7 6 5 4	♦ K	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
WEST		EAST	
♠ Q 10 7 5	♠ A J 9 4	♠ A J 8 7 5	♠ K
♥ Q 3	♥ A J 8 7 5	♥ A 9 7	♥ —
♦ 10	♦ A 9 7	♦ K	♦ —
♣ A 9 7 6 5 4	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
SOUTH (D)		EAST	
♠ 8 2	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 10	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ 8 6 4	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ Q J 10 8 3 2	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —

East and West were vulnerable and the bidding was:

South West	North East
Murray Garozzo	Kehela Forquet
3 ♣ Pass	Pass Dbl.
Pass	Pass

American experts tend to open three-bids at the slightest provocation when they deal and are not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents. In this case the preemptive tactic by Eric Murray came to grief. West must have thought that Christmas had come when three clubs doubled became the final contract.

It is usually wrong to rescue a partner who has made a preemptive bid, but North

might have made an exception in this case. It was unlikely that three diamonds would be a worse contract than three clubs. And, in view of the possibility that South had opened with a thin suit on the strength of the vulnerability, there was a distinct chance of finding a better spot.

As it happens, North would have made at least six tricks in three diamonds doubled. No doubt the Italian East-West pair would have abandoned the penalty possibility and bid their vulnerable game.

West led the diamond ten against three clubs doubled, and East took dummy's jack with the ace. He returned the diamond nine, carefully playing a high spot-card to suggest the return of a high ranking suit.

West obediently shifted to the spade queen, which was allowed to win, and then continued with a low spade. East won and gave his partner another ruff in diamonds. A spade lead forced the declarer to ruff, and he was already down one in the following position:

NORTH		EAST	
♠ —	♠ 9	♠ A J 8 7 5	♠ K
♥ 9 6 4 2	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ K Q 5	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
WEST		EAST	
♠ 10	♠ 9	♠ A J 8 7 5	♠ K
♥ Q 3	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ A 9 7 6	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
SOUTH		EAST	
♠ —	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 10	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ Q J 10 8 3 2	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —

The club ten was led, losing to East who returned the spade nine. South ruffed with the eight and continued with the club queen. West won and returned a trump, but was thrown back into the lead with a trump at the 11th trick and led a heart. South made one heart trick and three of his trumps, going down five tricks for a penalty of 900 points.

When the hand was replayed, the Italian South did not open the bidding. The American East-West, Edgar Kaplan and Norman Kay, did as well as they could by bidding four spades and making 11 tricks for a score of 650 points. However, Italy gained 250 net, or 6 international match points.

In the qualifying stages it seemed likely for several days that France would qualify at the expense of North

"Contract Bridge"—news about the game and how the experts play it, by Alan Truscott—appears daily.

America. French hopes finally vanished when the Americans gained substantially on the following deal.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 3	♠ K 6	♠ K 10 8 7 5 4	♠ —
♥ 6 3 2	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ J 9 8 4 2	♦ —	♦ K 3	♦ —
♣ K J 10 6	♣ —	♣ 9 5 2	♣ —
WEST (D)		EAST	
♠ Q 10 8 2	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ Q 9	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ A Q 10 7 6 5	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ Q	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
SOUTH		EAST	
♠ A J 9 7 5 4	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ A J	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ A 8 7 4 3	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —

Both sides were vulnerable. Sam Kehela, the American West, did not choose to open a borderline hand, and the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
Kehela	Svarc	Murray	Boulenger
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Unless a bad trump break is about to surprise the declarer, it is seldom right to double a game contract that the opponents think they will make. So West did not double five clubs—even with 12 high-card points and a partner who had opened the bidding.

Could Have Worked

North-South had only 19 high-card points, but five clubs was a reasonable contract that could have been made. North's singleton in his partner's original suit offered the chance of ruffs and induced him to bid the game.

West led the heart queen and South won with the ace. He led to the club king, collecting West's queen, and then started the spades. After the spade ace, a spade ruff, a diamond ruff and a spade ruff the position was:

NORTH		EAST	
♠ —	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ 6 3	♥ —	♥ K 10 7 5	♥ —
♦ J 9 8 4	♦ —	♦ K	♦ —
♣ J	♣ —	♣ 9 5	♣ —
WEST		EAST	
♠ Q	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ 9	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ A Q 10 7 6	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —
SOUTH		EAST	
♠ J 9 7	♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ J	♥ —	♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —	♦ —	♦ —
♣ A 8 7	♣ —	♣ —	♣ —

South saw that he could establish his spades by ruffing another diamond and then ruffing another spade. However, he also saw that he would lose control of the trump suit in the process. By the time South was able to lead a winning spade, East would have two trumps to South's one and the contract would be down one.

Instead, South chose a different way to go down one. He overtook the club jack with his ace and surrendered a spade trick. East's club nine became the setting trick.

This play would have made the contract if the defenders' trumps had been evenly divided. But that possibility was virtually ruled out by West's play of the queen on the first round of trumps.

South went astray when he ruffed the second round of spades with dummy's club six. If he had ruffed with the ten and then with the jack two tricks later, he would have reached the diagramed position with the club six remaining in the dummy instead of the jack.

Sure Thing

This would have permitted him to finesse against East's club nine, a play that was sure to win. West would not have played the club queen earlier from Q-9. The last trump would be drawn, and South would give up a spade to make his contract.

When the hand was replayed, Edgar Kaplan played five clubs doubled for North America from the North position. West chose to open the bidding, which became both spirited and protracted.

West	North	East
Stetten	Kaplan	Tintner
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♥
Dbl.	Pass	4 ♥
Dbl.	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass

This time it was North who was declarer, and East could not resist the temptation to double. He led a trump, which is often a good move when the declaring side is likely to be short of high-card strength and therefore will need numerous ruffing tricks to make the contract.

In this case the trump lead did not disturb the declarer, who immediately began to develop spades. He led to the spade ace, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond and then ruffed another spade.

The South hand was entered with the heart ace, and another spade was ruffed with the last trump. That left the South dummy with three trumps to East's two, so the declarer was able to ruff a diamond, cash the club ace and then continue spades. He lost only one trump trick and one heart trick.

The American declarer had an easier task than his opposite French number because there was no heart lead to remove a vital entry from the South hand. North America gained a total of 850 points, which was worth 13 international match points.

BRIDGE

♦♦♦♦ By ♦♦♦♦

Jacoby and Son

One of the chief criticisms of American bidding as opposed to Italian bidding in the past has been that the Italians just outbid us on slams. We have seen little evidence of this in the past and in this year's match it seems that our slam bidding was definitely superior.

The first slam hand was board No. 5. The American bidding with Kehela as South and Murray as North went as shown in the box.

Kehela's failure to bid four no-trump was due to the fact that conceivably his partner would have a singleton heart and only one ace, in which case a five diamond Blackwood response would get them too high. Also Kehela and Murray have played to-

NORTH 10			
♠ K 9 8 7			
♥ 10 3			
♦ A 6 5 4			
♣ A 7 6			
WEST		EAST	
♠ Q J 6 5 3		♠ 10 4 2	
♥ 7 6		♥ A 9 2	
♦ 9 8 7 3		♦ K Q J 10	
♣ 10 3		♣ J 8 2	
SOUTH (D)			
♠ A			
♥ K Q J 8 5 4			
♦ 2			
♣ K Q 9 5 4			
North-South vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 N.T.	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead—♦ 9			

gether for years and Sammy knows that Eric is not bashful about slam bidding. Eric's five diamond call was a cue bid so Sammy showed his ace of spades whereupon Eric went to five no-trump to tell Sammy to place the slam contract. He might have placed it in hearts but decided that five clubs to the king-queen-nine were good enough.

There was no play to the hand. Sammy won the opening lead, drew trumps and conceded a trick to the ace of hearts.

We aren't inclined to give Eric and Sammy any great credit for getting to this slam. It seems to us that any good American pair and almost any poor American pair would find a way there with the North-South cards, but we picked up 13 International Match Points when the Italian North-South pair using the scientific Italian methods stopped at five clubs!

BRIDGE

♦♦♦♦ By ♦♦♦♦

Jacoby and Son

NORTH 11			
♠ A 10 7			
♥ 9			
♦ 10 9 7			
♣ A K Q 10 6 2			
WEST		EAST	
♠ Q 8 4		♠ 9 3	
♥ K Q J 8 3		♥ 10 7 6 4 2	
♦ 6		♦ A 5 2	
♣ J 9 4 3		♣ 8 7 5	
SOUTH (D)			
♠ K J 6 5 2			
♥ A 5			
♦ K Q J 8 4 3			
♣ Void			
Both vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
1 ♥	3 ♣	3 ♥	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 N.T.	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	Pass
Opening lead—♥ K			

Board six of the world match gave Italy a two International Match Point profit when both sides played one no-trump contracts. The Italian declarer made two overtricks; the American barely made his contract. Board seven gave Italy two more IMPs but you be the judge whether they deserved them.

Kehela and Murray bid the fine six diamond contract which was a laydown. Sammy won the heart lead and went after trumps. Once he had pulled trumps he was able to discard three of his spades on dummy's ace-king-queen of clubs.

The bidding in the box shows how Italy reached the very inferior contract of six spades.

Norman Kay could have beaten this slam had he opened his singleton diamond but, year in and year out, this type of play leads to the poorhouse and not to success. He opened his king of hearts.

D'Alelio still needed a spade break and a successful guess as to the location of the queen but he was equal to the occasion, as he was throughout the whole match. He led a low spade and finessed dummy's ten. Then he cashed dummy's ace, discarded his small heart on the ace of clubs, drew the last trump and conceded a trick to the ace of diamonds.

Probably his decision to play Kay for the queen of spades was based on the fact that Norman had overcalled or maybe D'Alelio was just using a crystal ball. But we feel that if Norman had not stuck in his overcall, Italy would have reached the correct six diamond contract.

BRIDGE

♦♦♦♦ By ♦♦♦♦

Jacoby and Son

Deal ten of the match gave Kehela and Murray their third chance to bid a slam and they proceeded to do so.

The other two required considerable bidding skill to reach. This one was a cinch with the Murray-Kehela methods.

They use what are known as Acol two bids. In the Acol system two clubs shows hands with a lot of high cards while other two bids may be made with strong distributional hands and very few high cards. Most American players would shudder at the idea of an opening two with 11 high card points and a broken suit. Some might open with four hearts, there are others who would open with one heart, a few might even pass. We be-

NORTH 12			
♠ A Q J 4 2			
♥ A Q 6			
♦ 5			
♣ K Q 7 3			
WEST		EAST (D)	
♠ K 9 3		♠ 10 8 6 5	
♥ 2		♥ 7	
♦ J 8 2		♦ Q 10 7 6 4 3	
♣ A J 6 5 4 2		♣ 9 8	
SOUTH			
♠ 7			
♥ K J 10 9 8 5 4 3			
♦ A K 9			
♣ 10			
Both vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 N.T.	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead—A ♣			

long to the one heart opening group ourselves.

The Acol two heart bid made it easy for Murray to get to the slam. He temporized with two spades and went right into Blackwood after Kehela rebid his suit. He was a trifle disappointed to find that an ace was missing but the slam was there.

There wasn't any swing to America because the Italians also reached six hearts. In fact, we believe that anyone who started with a one bid or four bid would also get to this slam and maybe even a man who passed might work up to it.

We gave the hand merely to show that the American team's slam bidding was clicking beautifully. Any team that can get to the right slam contract three times in succession is pretty good. It is lots harder to bid at the table than later on when you are looking at all the cards.

It should also be pointed out that on the other two slam hands Italy failed to bid one and the other was bid in the wrong suit so that up to this point our slam bidding was far superior.

BRIDGE

♦♦♦♦ By ♦♦♦♦

Jacoby and Son

NORTH (D) 16			
♠ K 6 3			
♥ A J 6			
♦ A J 8 7 2			
♣ 9 6			
WEST		EAST	
♠ Q J 10 7 2		♠ 8 5	
♥ 10 9 5 4		♥ K 8 7	
♦ Q		♦ K 10 5 3	
♣ K 10 2		♣ A J 8 7	
SOUTH			
♠ A 9 4			
♥ Q 3 2			
♦ 9 6 4			
♣ Q 5 4 3			
Both vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 ♠	Pass	1 N.T.
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead—A ♣			

You don't get to be a great bridge player by sitting back in a rocking chair and waiting for sure thing bids. You have to take calculated risks from time to time.

If Eric Murray's eight-point vulnerable double of South's one no-trump response had backfired at him, we can see the chorus of criticism from the defeatist players—who criticize beautifully and never win when and if they get to the table against tough competition.

Anyway, this double in the World's Championship Match worked to perfection. North saw no reason to run. Sammy Kehela with his nice East hand was delighted to pass. South had reason to think that a runout to diamonds would be a case of out of the frying pan into the fire. Actually two diamonds would only go down one trick but South could not tell that North held a good five card diamond suit.

West opened the queen of spades and continued the suit after South ducked in both hands. South's nine of diamonds drew the queen and ace. Kehela won the next diamond with the ten and led a low club to Murray's ten. Murray cleared the spade suit and eventually the defense collected three clubs, three spades, two diamonds and 500 points.

The bidding started the same way at the other table but the Italian West did not double. He would have been incurring far greater risk than Murray because in our systems North could have a very good hand. In the particular Italian system used here the diamond bid and no-trump response were both rather limited bids.

Our net gain on this board was 300 points, or seven International Match Points. Although Murray did not know it since they were in the middle of a season, it left the match an exact tie.