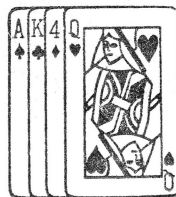


Goren ON BRIDGE



Late in July, when interest and attendance at Expo 67 will be building up to peak proportions, several thousand bridge players will wend their way to Montreal from all parts of the North American continent to participate in the Summer National Tournament of the American Contract Bridge League.

The ACBL boasts a membership approaching 250,000 and a surprisingly significant percentage of these manage to get to at least one of the three national events held each year. The league is a purely amateur body that keeps records of all of its members, based entirely on their relative performance in each tournament they play.

It is the lure of national titles and prestige that will draw the finest players in the United States, Canada and Mexico to Montreal on July 28 to begin a competition that will run for 12 full days. At the end of the contest lies potential qualification for the North American team in the 1968 World Bridge Championship.

Canada has played a key

role in international bridge activities for several years, thanks to the presence of a number of top experts among her citizens. In the 1964 World Bridge Olympiad, which featured contestants from every continent, Canada finished in fourth place — after being edged out in the semi-finals by a very narrow margin.

The dominant figure on the world bridge scene for the last 10 years has been Italy. With little exception, they have beaten back the efforts of all challengers including the United States, which usually represents North America in the title events.

In 1966 and again this year, Canada succeeded in placing its top pair — Eric Murray and Sam Kahela — on the American team. Although they are relatively youthful (Murray is 38 and Kahela is 32), they are a seasoned partnership and have earned an international reputation of the highest standard.

A sample of this pair in action is our current offering which was taken from last year's match between North America and Venezuela. This deal contributed significant-

ly to the triumph of the former.

(Murray)
NORTH

♥ 7 6
♠ K Q 9 5 4
♦ Q 8 4 2
♣ A 9

WEST	EAST
♠ Q J 8 5 4 3	♠ K 10 2
♥ J	♥ 8 3
♦ J 7 6	♦ K 10 5
♣ K Q 6	♣ J 7 4 3 2

(Kahela)
SOUTH

♠ A 9
♥ A 10 7 6 2
♦ A 9 3
♣ 10 8 5

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: King of ♣

Kahela, seated South, opened the bidding with one heart and West chose to remain silent. Murray made a temporizing response of two diamonds with the North hand, and when his partner merely rebid two hearts, he proceeded directly to game.

West opened the king of clubs, and South permitted him to win the first trick, following from dummy with the nine. Since nothing further could be gained from continuing the attack in clubs, West

shifted to the queen of spades. East signalled encouragement with the ten and South played the ace.

Declarer crossed over to the ace of clubs and then drew trump in two rounds, ending up in his hand. He ruffed out his remaining club to complete his stripping operation and then exited with a spade.

West won the trick by putting up the jack and since the return of a black card would present his opponent with a ruff and discard, he shifted to a small diamond. The dummy followed with the deuce and East played the ten, to dislodge South's ace.

Kahela returned a diamond and when West played the seven, it was up to the declarer to make the winning play. If he thinks West has the king of diamonds, then he must put up North's queen. If he plays West for the jack, however, he should let the nine ride.

Declarer decided to follow the latter course and was rewarded when the nine of diamonds dislodged East's king. South claimed the balance of the tricks, having lost one trick in each side suit.

At the other table, the Venezuelan declarer did not uncover the end play. He chose, instead, to lead the ace and another diamond, playing

West for the king. When East turned up with that card, the defence cashed two diamonds to set the contract. North America netted a 720 point profit on the deal — 620 for making the vulnerable game at one table and 100 for defeating the same contract at the other.

Eric Murray was born in Hamilton, Ont., in 1928 and resides now in Toronto, where he practices law. He has been winning national bridge titles since 1954 and has represented Canada in both the 1960 and the 1964 World Olympiads as well as being on the North American team in 1962, 1966 and 1967. The '67 world title match will be held in Miami Beach from May 26 to June 4. Participating will be Italy, the defending champion, France, North America, Venezuela and Thailand.

Sam Kahela was born in Baghdad in 1935. From there he travelled in turn to Bombay, California, Jamaica and England before he finally settled in Canada in 1957. Kahela now lives in Toronto where he is a bridge teacher and writer. He formed a partnership with Murray in 1959 and, in conjunction with the latter, also represented Canada in the two Olympiads as well as the most recent world championships.