

SAMMY KEHELA'S VISIT TO THE PRESS ROOM . . . yesterday on his arrival from Canada reminded us of one of the few unpublished Murray-Kehela stories. Back in the 1964 Olympiad, Murray and Kehela were about to start a match against France. Just before play was to begin, Murray withdrew one of his big black stogies from an inside pocket, turned to his RHO and asked, "Do you mind, sir?" "Mais non monsieur," replied the Frenchman. Then Murray turned to his LHO, repeated the query and received the same reply. Kehela was next. He produced an equally formidable cigar, asked both opponents in turn whether they objected, and both again said they did not. Murray and Kehela stared at each other, muttered, "It's no use," and returned the cigars to whence they came, and got on with the match.

ERIC, OR LITTLE BY LITTLE . . . Canada's most renowned bidder is ERIC MURRAY. (If you don't believe me, just ask him.) He claims to be a master of the approach forcing principle, and cites this hand from the Kaplan vs Weiss Vanderbilt match as an example of his technique.

Dlr: West S. 4  
 Vul: N-S H. Q 10 5 4 3 2  
 D. A J 10 9 5 2  
 C. - -

S. Q J 9 8 3  
 H. J  
 D. K 8 7  
 C. Q 4 3 2

S. A K 6 5  
 H. K 9 8 6  
 D. Q 4  
 C. K 9 8

S. 10 7 2  
 H. A 7  
 D. 6 3  
 C. A J 10 7 6 5

After three passes, Sammy Kehela opened the South hand with one heart. West overcalled one spade and Murray was faced with the problem of how best to describe his hand in approved scientific fashion. Taking due note of his partner's vaunted playing technique, Murray found an elegant way of exactly describing his hand's potential -- he bid six hearts! As his partner had overcalled and he held two aces, including the ace of trumps, East can hardly be blamed for doubling.

Kehela played the hand skillfully -- he won the opening spade lead, lost a heart to the ace, won the spade continuation, drew the outstanding trump and neatly finessed in diamonds to land the slam.

A FEW DAYS AGO . . . we praised ERIC MURRAY'S bidding prowess. Here is a sample of his card-play technique.

Dlr: South S. 10 6 2  
 Vul: E-W H. A 10 9 5  
 D. 7 5 2  
 C. Q 10 7

S. A K  
 H. 8 7 6 4  
 D. 10 9 6 4  
 C. A J 6

S. Q 9 8 5 4  
 H. K Q J 2  
 D. K 8  
 C. 9 2

S. J 7 3  
 H. 3  
 D. A Q J 3  
 C. K 8 5 4 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 S
1 NT	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2 C	Dbl	(All Pass)	

Opening lead: Spade ace

South took his two spade tricks and shifted to the eight of hearts, won by dummy's ace. A low diamond was led, East played the king and the ace won. The three of clubs was led, West played the six, dummy the seven and a surprised

East won with the nine and led the queen of spades, West sluffing a heart. Declarer ruffed the king of hearts lead and tried to cash two diamonds, but East ruffed with the deuce. Declarer still had to lose the ace of clubs for down one.

In the other room, East-West made two spades, so there was no swing. "But we would have gained if I could have shut out that two of clubs!" said Murray.

TOP SEEDS WIN VANDERBILT IN THRILLING FINAL . . . Edgar Kaplan, Norman Kay, George Rapee, Sidney Lazard, Eric Murray and Sammy Kehela copped the Vanderbilt. In a thrilling final, they beat the International Team by 4 IMPs over 72 boards. With the Canadians outstanding, Kaplan roared to a 64 IMP lead in the first half. But the International Team were undaunted and fought back to lose a close match that could have gone either way. Kehela was ill Saturday night and he and Murray took no part in the evening sessions.

The Final Standings:

1. Edgar Kaplan, Norman Kay, Eric Murray, Sammy Kehela, George Rapee, Sidney Lazard  
NYC Philadelphia -- Toronto -- NYC New Orleans
2. Billy Eisenberg, Bobby Goldman, Bob Hamman, Mike Lawrence, James Jacoby, Bob Wolff  
-- all Dallas --
- 3/4-Dr. George Rosenkranz; Dan Morse, Paul Hodge, Dr. Harold Rockaway, G. R. Nail  
Mexico City -- all Houston John Gerber
- 3/4-Peter A Pender, Grant Baze, Harlow Lewis, Tony Dionisi  
Sausalito, Calif San Francisco Philadelphia NYC
- 5/8-Philip Feldesman, William Grieve, Jeff Westheimer, Ira Rubin  
NYC NYC NYC Paramus, NJ
- 5/8-Lew Mathe, Don Krauss, Dick Walsh, John Swanson  
L. A. L. A. L. A. Culver City, Cal.
- 5/8-Victor Mitchell, Tobias Stone, Sam Stayman, Edith Kemp, Bob Rothlein, Armand Barfus  
NYC NYC NYC MI Beach Orlando Fla NYC
- 5/8-Larry Weiss, Jim Stein, John Bookstaver, Bernard Chazen, Roger Lord, Alan Truscott  
L. A. L. A. Forest Hills, NY Fort Lee, N.J. St. Louis Hastings NY

THE KAPLAN TEAM . . . were off to a fast start in their Vanderbilt Final. ERIC MURRAY engineered this swing off the International Team on the very first board:

Dlr: South	S. 10 9 8 7		SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Vul: None	H. K 10 9		2 C	3 C !	Pass	Pass
	D. K Q 4 2		3 S	Pass	4 NT	Pass
	C. K 7		5 C	Pass	6 S	Pass
S. Q 5		S. 6 4	7 S	Pass	Pass	Pass
H. J 8 3 2		H. 7 6 5				
D. 6		D. J 10 7 5 3				
C. Q 10 9 5 4 2		C. J 6 3				
	S. A K J 3 2					
	H. A Q 4					
	D. A 9 8					
	C. A 8					

Opening lead: Club 10

Declarer won the opening lead in his hand and cashed the ace of spades. Obviously, Murray's overcall was based on distribution, and declarer reckoned a stiff spade was likely in the West hand.

At trick three, he crossed to the king of clubs and hooked the jack of spades to go down one.

Rapee and Lazard reached the same contract with no opposition bidding. Rapee banged down the ace and king of spades to land his grand slam and get his team off to a 17 IMP lead.

THE CANADIAN'S AGGRESSIVENESS . . . paid off on a later board. (hand turned for readers)

Dlr: West			WEST	NORTH EAST	SOUTH
Vul: E-W	S. Q 8 6 2		2 C	Pass 3 C	3 S
	H. 8		Pass	5 S !	Pass
	D. J 10 8 5 4		6 C	Pass	6 S
	C. J 7 6		Pass	Pass	7 C
S. A K		S. 5	Pass	7 S	Dbl. (All Pass)
H. A K 9 5 3		H. J 10 4 2			
D. A K 7 3		D. 9 6			
C. Q 8		C. A K 9 5 4 2			
	S. J 10 9 7 4 3				
	H. Q 7 6				
	D. Q 2				
	C. 10 3				

Opening lead: Heart king

Once Murray had introduced the spade suit, the sacrifice was obvious. Kehela did his share of jamming the bidding, and when seven clubs came round to him he was not sure that it could make. But

he knew that he had a reasonable sacrifice against even a small slam, so he bid seven spades. The defenders took their obvious seven tricks for 1,300, but in the other room East-West bought the contract for six hearts, scoring 1,430 when declarer failed to pick up the heart queen.

# Bridge: Kaplan's Team Triumphs Over Aces in Title Final

By ALAN TRUSCOTT

Special to The New York Times

**P**ORTLAND, Ore., March 22 —One of the closest final matches in the 40-year history of the Vanderbilt knock-out team championship resulted in a victory for Edgar Kaplan's team of international stars here last night. They won by 4 international match points aces in 72 deals.

The match had appeared decided in the first 18 deals when the Kaplan team, which listed on its roster George Rapee, also of New York, Norman Kay of Philadelphia, Sidney Lazard of New Orleans and Eric Murray and Sam Kehela of Toronto, built up a 55-point lead by superb bidding and play. They increased this to 64 points at the half-way stage, and the critics believed that the match was over.

But the Aces, composed of Bob Goldman, Bill Eisenberg, Jim Jacoby, Robert Wolff, Mike Lawrence and Bob Hamman, showed the fighting spirit that they will need when they represent the United States in the world championship in June. They reduced the deficit to 35 points in the next 18 deals, leaving themselves with a difficult but not impossible task in the final quarter.

## Kaplan Enjoys Edge

Eisenberg and Goldman played magnificently against Lazard and Rapee, who were less accurate than they had been earlier in the day. Spectators watching the play in that room believed that the Aces had pulled out a narrow victory, but it turned out that Kaplan and Kay had had slightly the best of matters against Lawrence and Hamman, and this was enough to pressure 4 points of Kaplan's large lead.

The pair of the match was undoubtedly Murray and Kehela, who played for the first two sessions only. Kehela was indisposed during the evening, and this handicapped the Kaplan team in the second half of the match.

Two deals from the first quarter of the Vanderbilt match indicated the importance of entering the bidding in favorable vulnerability circumstances when the opponents seemed to be on their way to slam.

On the first deal of the match, the opening bid was two clubs in both rooms, an artificial bid showing a powerful hand. Both teams reached a slightly optimistic contract of seven spades, with the declarer holding A-K-J-X-X of trumps opposite four small trumps in the dummy.

Rapee made the normal play of the ace and king, and dropped the dobleton queen to make the grand slam. But Eisenberg was thrown off the track because Murray, on his left had put in an overcall of three clubs with an almost worthless hand. It now seemed likely that the spade queen was on the right, so the declarer took the trump finesse and went one down, losing 17 international match points.

NORTH

♠ Q 8 6 2  
♥ 8  
♦ J 10 8 5 4  
♣ J 7 6

WEST (D)

♠ A K  
♥ A K 9 5 3  
♦ A K 7 3  
♣ Q 8

EAST

♠ 5  
♥ J 10 4 2  
♦ 9 6  
♣ A K 9 5 4 2

SOUTH

♠ J 10 9 7 4 3  
♥ Q 7 6  
♦ Q 2  
♣ 10 3

East and West were vulnerable. The bidding:

West	North	East	South
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	3 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	7 ♣	Pass
Pass	7 ♠	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the heart king.

## 12 Tricks Made

Later in the session, the diagramed deal came up. Lazard and Rapee, playing against Jacoby and Wolff, reached the normal contract of six hearts without interference, and made 12 tricks. The grand slam depends on collecting the heart queen, and is a borderline proposition on a percentage basis.

At the other table, Murray was again active in the bidding, as shown in the diagram. After the positive response of three clubs to two clubs, he interjected a three-spade bid. This served two purposes: It made it harder for East-West to bid accurately, and it paved the way for an eventual sacrifice.

Kehela crowded the auction for his opponents by jumping to five spades, and East-West never managed to find their heart fit. They tried six clubs and then seven clubs, which was a distinctly inferior contract because it needed a three-two club break as well as the location of the heart queen.

Kehela eventually had to decide whether to allow his opponents to play the grand slam, and chose the sacrifice as the safest course.

It is quite likely that Goldman would have made the contract of seven hearts, relying on the same reason-

ing that had failed his partner on the earlier deal. The active bidding by North and South suggested that their hands were unbalanced. On this basis, the declarer would no doubt have played one high trump, crossed to the East hand, and finessed in trumps against South to make the grand slam.

Seven spades doubled was down seven, the declarer losing one heart trick and two tricks in each of the other suits. The Kaplan team gained a modest 130 points, or 4 international match points. Their gain would have been far greater if North had held J-10-X-X in clubs instead of J-X-X: He would then have permitted East-West to play seven clubs and gained 17 points.