

Winnipegger Born Danny Miles Honoured: Finalist for IBPA 2025 Declarer Play Award

By Neil Kimelman

Danny Miles is a finalist for the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) 2025 Award, for best played bridge hand. This prestigious honour may be a first for a Canadian player.

For those who don't know Danny he is one of the best players in Canada. He grew up in River Heights, before his career took him to Toronto. He has won the Canadian Open Team Championships (to represent Canada) four times, including 2017 with local players Bob Todd, Doug Fisher and myself.

The IBPA honors the best plays in the following categories: **Declarer Play, Defence, Bidding and Junior.**

The hand occurred during the 2025 CNTCs semi-final match between. I wrote an article about Danny's amazing play, for the June 2025 IBPA magazine. Here is an excerpt from this article:

2025 Canadian Bridge Championships

By Neil Kimelman

Team Feldman (Jason Feldman, Danny Miles, Jacob Freeman, Daniel Lavee, Jeff Smith, and Fred Pollack) emerged from the original quarterfinalists to capture the Sam Gold trophy as the CNTC Open Champions, beating Luo (Jianfeng Luo, Shigang Liang, Kai Zhou, Alex Hong, Yan Wang, and Edward Xu) in the final, 219-157, over 112 boards.

This play problem took place in the second quarter of Feldman's match against the Luo team (Jaiwei Luo, Fengming Chen, Qian Ren and Tiger Hu). Danny Miles and Jason Feldman bid up to a nice 7♥ contract. The full deal:

Feldman

♠96

♥K32

♦AKJ1097

♣K2

Miles

♠AKJ

♥AQ1096

♦5

♣AQ106

The bidding:

Miles Feldman

1♥ 2♦

3♣¹ 3♥

3NT² 4♠³

5♣⁴ 5♦⁵

5♠⁶ 7♥¹

Pass

1. Extra shape/strength.
2. Serious slam try, spade cue bid.
3. RKC.
4. 3 keycards.
5. ♥Q ask.
6. I have the ♥Q and ♠K.

The grand slam depends on little more than not losing a trump trick. West didn't take very long before deciding on a low spade lead, which went to the 10 and Jack.

Miles considered the lead, a very odd choice, leading away from a queen into the spade cuebid. A trump would be the “standard” lead against a grand slam. Backing his judgement that West had either one or four trumps, Miles cashed the ace of hearts and continued with the ten, running it when West followed low!

The full deal:

<u>Feldman</u>	
♠96	
♥K32	
♦AKJ1097	
♣K2	
<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
♠Q87	♠105432
♥J875	♥4
♦8643	♦Q2
♣93	♣J8754
<u>Miles</u>	
♠AKJ	
♥AQ1096	
♦5	
♣AQ106	

Danny played the ♠K, spade to his hand to pull the last trump, and play on diamonds. Once the ♦Q fell doubleton the rest was easy. Plus 2210 was good for a 20-IMP pickup on the way to a 139-91 victory.

Selection and Awards Ceremony

The IBPA winners will be decided during a two day Congress in China, November 9-10, 2026. If selected, Danny (and myself as journalist) will be invited, and honoured, at the 2025 Awards Ceremony, which will be held in Hainan China, Feb. 27 - March 2, 2027.

