

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Shelli and Eddie had arrived at Sparky's Sports Pub in Santa Clara for Shelli's debut in a big tournament. At the same time, Long Beach Lil headed toward that destination.....)

After the "hoopla" that followed Eddie and Shelli's arrival at Sparky's Sports Pub had died down, the action started to formulate. The tournament was well-planned and organized for the weekend long event. There would be an open draw on Friday, a bring-your-partner event on Saturday, and the singles event (handicapped) would finish the tournament on Sunday.

Eddie would not be eligible for the open draw, which would be starting in a few minutes, because of his -1 rating. Shelli was eligible for any of the events because she hadn't even been rated yet! As a result, she was going to compete in ALL of the events.

In the meantime, the car which had departed Long Beach that same morning made a stop at Downey, California. Indeed, it was Long Beach Lil, and she stopped off at a major shuffleboard place called The Southern Belle Lounge. She had arranged to stop off there to pick up a partner, whose name was "Mexican Joe Gomez." While there, she decided to make a call to Santa Clara -- specifically to find out if Eddie (and Shelli) would be playing there that weekend.

She got in touch with Sparky, the owner, and he told her that Eddie and Shelli were entered and would be playing in the tournament. She had a big decision to make now. Did she want to take the long drive up state and confront Eddie and Shelli, or stay where she was and compete in the weekend tournament that would be starting soon at the Southern Belle. If she decided to go, she didn't have to be there until the next day, Saturday, for the bring your partner, and the singles event on Sunday. She sat down with her partner, Joe, and ordered a couple of drinks....and started thinking.

Meanwhile, up north, Shelli was really getting excited as the drawing began for the open draw event. Based on some very "general" information, they gave her a "3" rating. Eddie stayed out of it. This was his day to just "kick back" and leisurely take in all the action (along with a few drinks, of course).

There was no calcutta for this event and Shelli drew a partner whose nickname was "Laggin' Lee" Gaggner. Eddie told her that she was lucky to have gotten him in the draw, because he was a pretty fair player, and they would have a good chance to win. Shelli was relieved to hear that, as she was really getting nervous now.

There were over 40 teams (with a \$50 entry fee) and it would be single elimination, so they could get it

finished before the next day's event. This meant that there was over \$4,000 in prize money, plus Sparky added \$300 due to the large turnout.

There wasn't much time for conversation with "Laggin' Lee" as the play was starting, and they were up in the first round. They won their first three games handily and had a chance to talk strategy before they were up again. A sense of synergism began to develop between the two of them. Eddie just kind of stayed out of things and offered a comment only when he was asked. He was staying into the Wild Turkey bourbon he was downing, though.

They stayed in the winner's bracket throughout the whole event and were now facing the final round. There was a little whispering and side-talk starting up over how well Shelli was shooting. It was obvious that she should have been rated higher than a "3." However, nobody spoke openly about it, in deference to Eddie.

In the final round, they were matched up against two real good shooters. The one was named "Two Hanger Tommie," and the other's handle was "Quickshot Malone." The games were extremely close and it finally got down to the final frame. The score was 14 to 13 in favor of Quickshot's team. Shelli had the hammer for the final shot. She had missed a weight, so she had a short "1" in the center, and a very deep "1" on the right rail, which was touching the two line, to shoot against.

Her choices were to either go for the lag, or stick the front weight and hope for the best. She sized things up very closely, sprinkled some wax on the left rail, and released a left-cross shot. The room was deadly silent, and all eyes were on Shelli's weight as it sailed down the board. There was electricity in that room!

The weight looked good going down, and she had played the drift well. Everyone's heart started to sink, though, when they saw Shelli's weight connect with the deep "1" because her weight caromed off to the left after it made contact! It looked like a sure "hit-and-go." Ironically, the weight settled just before going down -- with one side hanging into the four zone, and the other over the right rail. "Laggin' Lee" excitedly shouted out: "SAFE!", but it stayed in place....and the game was over!

Shelli started screaming then and began hugging and kissing both Eddie and Lee at the same time. She had done it! She won her first big tournament and a whole bunch of money to boot! She was totally ecstatic!

Eddie's mind was starting to click now, too. This changed things a little, and he also knew he had to

start to sober up for tomorrow. He also had a sense that something else was up. He didn't know what -- but there was something there.....

About the same time, a car pulled out of the parking lot of the Southern Belle Lounge in Downey...and Long Beach Lil was at the wheel!

--TO BE CONTINUED--

Don't miss the next episode to see if Lil will go to Santa Clara and confront Eddie and Shelli!

Koontz/Johnson Win 1st VFW Tournament in Indiana

The VFW in Syracuse, Indiana, recently held its first shuffleboard tournament with casino action, and it proved to be a huge success. There were 32 players (16 teams) with a large sale and many close games.

In the end, it was a newly-formed team of Mike Koontz from Bourbon, Indiana, and Mikel Johnson, Warsaw, Indiana, who came through the loser's bracket to take first place. Bobby and Debbie Voorhis of Fairmount took second place honors with Larry and Mary Brown of Fort Wayne in third. Bourbon's spring doubles champs, Jerry Knox and Ray Miller, finished just out of the money spots.

"This was a great turnout," said Fig of the VFW. "Thanks to Larry Summy, Terry Dowell, the Ohio teams, Mike Johnson for taking care of the board, and for the great job he does on the sale, the best I've seen. He gets the crowd into it and sales are great when he takes over. We hope to see everyone back and hope to see more new faces."

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