

# Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

*(In the last episode, Glen "The Man" Dawson did not accept Lil's challenge to play her for \$2,000 a series, so she and Frisko Eddie left O'Brian's Pub for the Sea-Tac Airport. It wasn't until they were headed toward the departure area that Lil told Eddie where they were headed: Michigan.)*

Lil and Eddie were rushing to the departure area to catch Flight #716, which would be taking them to Michigan. They just held up their tickets and were waved on by the final boarding clerk, and then ushered through the plane's entrance door by the flight attendant, and finally found their seats.

They breathed a sigh of relief after they were airborne and underway to Detroit. Both of them fell asleep after the 767 leveled off at 39,000 feet. They didn't even wake up for the in-flight dinner, and it was only after the plane began its descent that they "came to."

The landing at Detroit Metro was uneventful. After they departed the airport area, Eddie came out of his "haze" a little and started asking some questions about what the game plan would be. Lil started by saying: "After we get set up in a room, we're going to contact a man who can help us plan our action. He's called 'Johnny Mac,' and he's THE man to know in this part of the world."

They found a Holiday Inn on the outskirts of the city. After they checked in and got settled, Lil got on the phone. She was able to get right through to her contact. Although he was a busy man, he took the time to give Lil a very thorough briefing, and also agreed to help them get all set up for some really good action. He made several valuable suggestions which they would certainly follow.

Eddie was still kind of out-of-it, so he decided to "crash" for awhile. Lil made some more calls while he was "resing his eyes" -- calls that Eddie wouldn't know about.

The wheels started to turn then, and the following day found them headed for a place just outside the city which was called the Wet River Bar and Grill. If things went as planned, they wouldn't have to go much further. As they pulled into the parking area, Lil gave Eddie his final briefing: "O.K., honey, this is it. The singular most important thing we get out of this is to get you seasoned for the Reno Tournament. It'll be nice if we score on some major money in the process, but this time that's secondary. Just follow my lead, Champ....We should be in for a good ride here."

The bar proved to be very nice, inside and out. Eddie noticed that there were three in-house boards in the place. Eddie mentioned to Lil, "Hey, Babe, we're moving up in class," as they found their seats.

A friendly-looking man came up from behind the bar to take their order. He introduced himself as Nick Papalosa and he turned out to be the owner. After hearing the names, "Lil and Eddie," and observing the weight cases and all, he remarked: "Well, I'll be -- you're Long Beach Lil and this must be Frisko Eddie." Lil smiled then as she said: "Yup -- that's the name....now where's the game?"

Nick gave a big grin then and said: "The action is on the way, guys, but in the meantime, how about I give one of you a whirl?" Lil replied: "Well, you sure don't waste any time, Nick." He explained: "Well, I want to get in a few with you two before the others arrive. I like a little action now and then myself, and I'll be tied up later on." Lil looked over at Eddie then and said: "Unbuckle your weights, hot rod....it's show time."

Eddie had no concept of the grind that was in store for him as he shot his first weight against Nick. Lil knew exactly what would transpire though and she just kicked back and relaxed. Nick was a pretty skillful player, and he and Eddie ended up even after four games of play. About that time, Eddie noticed some new faces arriving, and all had weight cases in hand. Nick shook hands as he excused himself then and said: "It was a pleasure, Eddie. Good luck -- and I mean that."

Lil was busy, really busy now, shaking hands and exchanging greetings with some of the newcomers. She introduced Eddie as "a young upstart who THINKS he knows something about the game of shuffleboard." They all had drinks then, and exchanged a few "war stories" and updates on mutual friends and the latest gossip. Eddie started to get a little "antsy" after a short time, though, and made an announcement: "This 'soap opera' stuff is great, guys, but I came here to play. Which one of you wants to shed first blood?"

The conversations came to an abrupt halt then, and all eyes turned to Eddie. One of the men broke out in a knowing grin. He raised up a six-foot, very athletic build, and said: "Well, now, my man; I think I can just accommodate you on that. Let's play!" Lil just smiled, shook her head, and waved Eddie on.

The man's name was Hulk Passamino and his nick-name was "No Fear." This guy would play anyone, any time. If he lost 15-1, he'd have the quarters in for the next game before you could finish counting your winnings! He also had a strategy of showing up just before he was supposed to play. Today was no exception.

While they were getting set up to play, one of the other guys approached Lil and asked if she'd like to

start a game. His name was Barry Creakbottom -- tall and slender. He was nearing his 60's, if not already there. His handle was "Sky King." He owned his own plane and loved to fly but, ironically, he carried his weights in an old (really old) shaving bag! Lil said she'd love to play. She selected the board closest to Eddie's, so she could keep track of his action as well as her own.

The games were tough on both boards. All of the players were excellent shooters. The word had spread by now and the bar was starting to get packed with fans, other players, and also some "backers" and side-betters. If one didn't know better, he'd think he was watching the semi-final singles matches at Reno or Las Vegas!

There were a couple more who showed up, too. Lil knew these, as she did the other players. One was a former hustler who used to hang with the two best players in Texas. His name was Frank Slice and although he didn't hustle as much as in the old days, he was still a top player. He was fun to have there because of his wisecracking and comical mannerisms. He challenged Lil after she won her game.

Eddie had won his game and was then challenged by an exceptional opponent. He was about 6'2" (with no beer belly) and he wore glasses. He and Eddie played for hours, with the result being a stand-off. He was good. It was rather interesting to see him stand at the end of the board, straighten up, adjust his glasses (almost before every shot) and then let go. Eddie thought it was a little odd, too, that after a few games, the guy took off his shoes and played with his socks on! His feet didn't stink, though, so Eddie didn't mind. He was the best rail-shooter Eddie had ever seen, and he was glad when the action changed to another challenge.

There was electricity in that room. The focus on each weight that was shot was tremendous. At critical junctions, you could hear a pin drop. What a sensation to play, and also to observe, this shuffleboard at its finest!

After almost two days, the session came to an end. Everyone -- even those who weren't shooting -- were exhausted. The players were totally done in. It was an event that would not soon be forgotten.

There were a bunch of hugs, compliments, promises, and "see ya' in Reno's" passing as a wave through the room as things broke up and they started to leave. What great people -- players and fans alike who had gathered here. As Lil and Eddie left the room, she gave her compliments to Nick, the owner -- it was a warm handshake along with a hug, too.

Eddie was too exhausted to drive, so Lil took the wheel. They didn't know exactly how the finances had come out, except that they were ahead. Lil handed her stake to Eddie, who counted it out. They were a little

under \$5,000 to the good! Eddie knew right then that he had truly "Been there...and Done that!" This was exactly what Lil had planned for and, indeed, what Eddie had now received.

They got to the Holiday Inn and crashed for about 12 hours. They checked out the next day and made it to the airport. There were about 10 days before Reno. They made two stops on the way -- one in Oklahoma and the other in Denver. Eddie went head-and-heads against a great player in Oklahoma. After several hours of play, Lil pulled Eddie up before they might start to go down the tubes. This was HIS board and he was just too strong that day. Things went smoother in Denver. They met some great people, played some great games, and made some great money! They took a couple days to relax and tour the Great Rocky Mountains. Eddie said he had never seen anything as beautiful as this!

It was time then to leave for Reno. As the 727 made its descent into the airport, Eddie started to get a little tingling feeling in anticipation of what lay ahead. They checked into the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino after a short cab drive. After they got settled into their room in the Tower, showered and got dressed, it was time....the time Eddie had waited for, and prepared for, over several years.

The excitement level continued to build as they made their way to the nearby elevator. On the way down, Lil looked over at Eddie, smiled, and said: "This moment is what we've been waiting for. Just try to kick back and enjoy it, Champ."

The elevator came to a stop and the doors opened to reveal the large entranceway to the Tournament Room. After they made their way inside and Eddie saw all those shiny boards lined up in a row, he was totally peaked out. He turned to Lil and looked at her with an excited awe in his eyes, and said: "Sweetheart.....I have arrived."

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*Will all those years of preparation pay off for Eddie in Reno as he meets most of the top players in the world? Don't miss next month's exciting episode to find out. Author Balboa Ron will be in Reno (to record Eddie and Lil's adventures, of course, and play a little himself), so please take a minute to shake his hand and tell him the efforts he invests in this series (even when he has the flu) is worthwhile.*

**Balboa Ron  
wishes you a very  
HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**