

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

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Eddie and Shelli had a long time to reminisce about all of their recent adventures during their long plane trip from Daytona Beach to home – and San Francisco...and their Tavern, the Blue Moon. Little did they know that a big surprise awaited them upon their return! They finally arrived, and the landing was uneventful. They were picked up at SFO Airport by Jack, the young man that Eddie had hired to fill in while they were gone. He was actually 23 years old – but he looked more like he was 17. Eddie tried to get Jack to fill him in about how things had been at the Blue Moon while they were gone on the ride home. That proved hard to do, because all He wanted to hear about was their trip – especially about the shuffleboard. Shelli butted in at one point, and asked him why he was so interested. All he said was that “he’d been throwing a few weights lately was all.”

The truth of the matter was – that he’d been doing a whole lot more than just “throwing a few weights”. While they were gone, he had become one hell of a player. So good, in fact, that he could take just about anyone in the whole No. California area! He had also picked up a “handle” as well. They called him “Kansas Kid” now, mainly because that was where he was from originally. His plan was to get Eddie tricked into a game, and then hustle him. Everyone at the Blue Moon was in on it too.

After they arrived and got settled in, they checked out the Bar. Shelli went over the books, while Eddie checked the condition of the bar, shuffleboard, and the rest of the area. They were well pleased with what they saw. Jack and the rest of the crew had done an excellent job while they were gone. Jack and the team had even prepared a little homecoming and victory party for them as well. All the customers were eager to see the current “World Champion” and his beautiful Bride. The place was packed to full capacity, and there was a whole lot of laughter, hugging, and story telling to go around. After a while, Eddie went over to shoot a few weights. A crowd gathered to watch him practice. When he had been up and back a few times, Jack strolled up and said: “How about you teach an amateur how to play this game?” Eddie kind of smiled and said: “Ok with me Kid, Lets put some quarters in and wax her down!” After the board was ready, Eddie said: “I’ll go first, and we’ll discuss your shots as we go along, ok?” Jack said that would be fine, and “free-handed” a deep1, in the center of the table. Eddie hit, and slid into a short deuce, almost hanging over the left rail. Eddie mentioned that it was going to be pretty hard to stick that weight with the freehand, and proceeded to “show” him how to shoot

a jersey shot off the right rail.

After the “instruction”, Jack picked up his #2 weight, and shot a perfect right hand “jersey”. He not only hit the weight – he Stuck it as well! Eddie had a puzzled look on his face as he said: “Man, you sure picked that up real quick!” Jack had a little smile on his face as he said: “Yeah, I guess so”. The game continued with Jack “learning” real fast. In fact, when the score got to 11 all, Eddie said: “Hey, that’s it! You’re on your own now.” Jack just said “Ok, Champ”.

Jack had the “Hammer”, and on his third weight he “wrapped” one real tight around, with a left cross. It was a deuce, and was tucked in real nice. Eddie had a perplexed look on his face as he prepared to shoot. He looked at Jack and said: “Now how the hell did you do that Kid?” Jack had a serious look on his face as he replied: “Man, that was just luck...just luck is all”

Eddie missed his shot, taking his back weight off the board in the process. The only weight left on the board was Jack’s deuce – and he had the hammer. He turned to a disillusioned Eddie and said: “Well I guess I’m supposed to lag a 2 now – is that right ‘Coach’?” There was no reply. He set up for a right hand “thumb” shot for his lag. Just before his release, he announced: “Let’s just make it a three – just for good measure, ok”.

Needless to say, he lagged a perfect Deep three, a little left of center! Eddie had the whole message then. He said: “You S.O.B. – you hustled the hustler! How long has this been going on anyway?” Jack explained that he had started playing even before Eddie had left on both of his “long” journeys.

After some time passed, Jack approached Eddie and Shelli with a plan. There was one place that none of them had ever played, and that place was Southern California. He pointed out that no one really knew him there, and it would be the perfect place to pull off a “scam”. Eddie said they’d have to think it over, and he would let him know. He talked it over with Shelli, and she thought it was a great idea. He wanted her to go too, but she explained that someone had to stay back and manage the business...and anyway – she was starting to “show”. Eddie finally agreed, and later told Jack that the trip was on! He started jumping up and down, and hollered that “they were really going to make it big! As Eddie watched his antics, he thought to himself, Dear God, I hope this is the right thing...please let it be the right thing.

POST SCRIPT; So what’s going to happen now? Are they just going to sweep through L.A. – or are they going to run into some trouble. What adventures lie ahead? It should be an exciting trip – so be sure to tune in next issue! (TO BE CONTINUED)