

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

*A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert
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(Editor's Note: In the November, December 1993 and January 1994 issues, we reprinted Balboa Ron's short stories about a shuffler named Frisco Eddie, originally published in The Board Talk back in 1985. In February, we were pleased to continue that series with "The Return." Last month, Long Beach Lil was giving Eddie more than he bargained for. As he took his last shot, he reminded himself -- again -- "Geez, it's only a woman.")

The score was 14 to 12, Long Beach Lil's favor, and Eddie's hammer. He had released his final weight (a right-hand "full jersey") and as it sailed down the board, Eddie felt he may have "choked" a little. When the weight started to settle, though, it was still spinning rapidly -- and was just into the three-zone!

Everyone's eyes were glued to that weight as it spun in a clock-wise motion. Lil kind of smirked a little as the weight began to come to a halt. She knew that often, if there was too much spin on the weight, it would tend to "move," and even back up slightly as it came to rest, especially if the board was "high" on that end. As anticipated, the weight did just that, and it ended up just barely touching the 2 line. That made the score 14-up, with Lil's hammer.

Eddie remarked, "Geez, I thought I had it; never noticed that 'back-up' before." Lil replied, "There's a lot of things you haven't noticed yet, Eddie....but you will."

The action on the next frame was pretty predictable. All Lil had to do was keep the board "safe" by either "sticking" or "going," and not allowing Eddie an opportunity to "hide" a weight or set up a "combo." It was working out according to plan. The board was "clean" on Eddie's last shot. He put up a deep left-cross which ended up in the 2 zone, and was actually hanging over the side of the board. It was an excellent shot, considering the "drift" on the table.

Lil sized up the weight and on her release, she remarked to Eddie, "Get your quarters in, sucker....this game is over." Indeed it was, as her weight gently nudged his off the board and stopped in the 2 Zone!. This game was history!

Eddie was mad -- mad at himself, and mad at Lil's confidence -- and arrogance. He was very perplexed as he pondered how a "woman" could do him in that way. He even thought he heard a few snickers from the on-lookers.

His emotions were further intensified as he heard a

voice behind him say, "What are we getting into here, Eddie?"

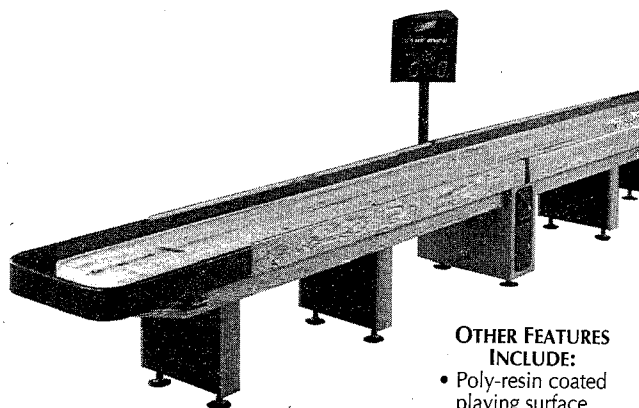
The voice was totally familiar and his mind whirled in search of a reply, as he turned around to look into the eyes of his girlfriend, Shelli.

What will Eddie tell Shelli? She and his bright future of perhaps becoming a partner at the Blue Moon Lounge were the reasons he had put his dreams of pursuing a full-time career playing shuffleboard on hold. And how will he handle his defeat by the deadly shooter with a knock-out body -- "just a woman"? Read the next episode in the May issue of The Board Talk.

Readers: if you're enjoying Ron's series as much as we are, please let us know. Your positive responses are the only "pay" he receives!

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