

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

EPISODE 86 -- A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert -- January 2002 Issue

In last months episode we found Eddie praying that the "hustling" trip they were about to embark on would go smoothly, and without a bunch of problems (like all the previous one's he'd been on).

For the next two weeks Eddie started to develop a plan for their trip to Southern California. He had a feeling that it might be a good idea to take a weekend shot at Las Vegas on the way, just to "warm" Jack up, and let him play on some unfamiliar boards. They could make this a kind of work and "pleasure" stop before matching up with the top competition they would be facing in L.A.

He presented his plan to Shelli and Jack, and they were both for it. Everything was in place at the Blue Moon, so they decided to start their journey the following Friday. In concert with Eddie's advice, Shelli set up all the travel, and other arrangements for them. They would fly out on Fri. morning, pick up a rental car at the Airport, and check in at the Sahara Hotel/Casino on the north end of the Strip. She made reservations for their departure to L.A. on Monday morning. With this plan, they could stay on the boards for the first two days, then relax, and maybe due a little "gaming", and even pick up a show on Sunday night. Eddie knew a man in Las Vegas who's handle was "Fearless Frank", and he had called him to get all the info on where the action was, and what to expect and all.

Shelli said a tearful good-bye to Eddie at the Airport. Even though it would only be for a couple weeks, she was still going to hate being away from him for even that short a time. Eddie assured her that if there was even a "hint" of any trouble, they would abandon the whole thing and come home.

The flight to LAS was uneventful, and they were on the ground in about an hour and fifteen minutes. They picked up their rental car with no problems, and headed out for the Sahara Hotel. They had quite a bit of time, so they departed the airport on Las Vegas Blvd. Eddie wanted to show Jack what the "Strip" looked like. He was really impressed with all the glitter of the buildings and all. Eddie told him to: "Wait until tonight -- you'll really dig it when it's all lit up".

After they checked in and had their bags brought up, they took their first look out of their window. What a view they had!

They could see partially down the strip on their left, and on the right, they had a perfect view of the Stratosphere Tower. It was supposed to be the tallest single standing structure West of the Mississippi. After seeing the Catapult on the top of the building operate, Jack said: "The first thing I want to do is go on that thing, ok?!" Eddie laughed and said: "Alright my friend, but we better do it right now -- before we have lunch. Otherwise, we might have to come back here and have you change before we go anywhere -- because I'm thinking you might just "Hurl" all over yourself!"

They had another really nice view of the City from the top of that Tower, and Eddie "watched" as Jack was shot upward by what was really a "Marten Baker ejection seat" that they use in jet fighters. After the ride was over he said: "Hey, I'm ready to do that again!" Eddie just laughed, and said: "Hey, we didn't come here for a kiddy show -- we've got some serious business here, and it's about to start in a few hours. Lets go back to the Hotel and have an early supper, so we can get in some practice on the Board we'll be playing on tonight.

They could almost have walked to the Bar they would be playing at. It was called the "House of Bottles Bar", and it was just a few blocks past the Stratosphere. They were glad they drove though, as the neighborhood kind of deteriorated a little bit as they got closer to the place.

After they got inside and were served their drinks, they asked the bartender if they could have the weights so they could throw a few. He said "sure" and handed them the case. There weren't hardly any people there yet, so they had the Table to themselves. Eddie had heard from his friend Frank, all about the shape the board was in. So before they started, he said to Jack: "Alright 'Top Gun' -- I'll bet you ten bucks right now, that you can't lag a deuce or better on at least one of your first two shots.

They waxed the board first, and then Jack took his first shot. He let go on his lag just like he would on an average table. The weight was so fast -- that it almost knocked out the backboard on the other end of the Table! Jack and the Bartender were both laughing away at that -- and also when his second shot went sailing right of the end too! All Jack could say was: "Man -- I have NEVER seen a board as fast as this in my life!"

Just about then Fearless Frank walked in the front entrance. He and Eddie shook hands, and gave each other a hug. They made introductions all around, and after a short time of reminiscing, Frank told Eddie to go on and get some practice in -- because he had to get things set up for the tournament. About twenty minutes later, the players started to show up, and in no time the place was packed. There were a couple other guys show up who would help Frank on and off and their names were "Quickshot Craig", and "Teddy the Alphabet".

Cards were then drawn to see who would be partners. By a minor miracle, Eddie and Jack ended up as partners. After the names and positions of play were logged in on the board at the end of the Table, Frank hollered out..."Let the games begin!"

(TO BE CONTINUED)