

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Eddie and Lil had boarded the plane for the first leg of their journey, with Texas as their destination. Lil had briefed Eddie on some "hustler" strategies they would be using.)

Eddie was beginning to wonder what was coming up next, after Lil had told him she was going to share some "hustling" secrets. They had finished their breakfast trays and were cruising along smoothly at 35,000 feet, headed for the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport.

Lil began: "Now, Eddie, I want you to know that we will be running into several people who have the same notion as we do about winning at the game of shuffleboard. If we need to -- that is, HAVE TO, we can and WILL add some things that will put the odds in our favor."

She was checking his reaction as she continued: "There's one thing that works well if you're having trouble with the lag, Eddie. It's common table salt. When a small amount is secretly sprinkled on a pre-selected spot (like a few boards in -- and in the three-zone), the weight will stop very nicely, right on the spot! Of course, you have to be lagging pretty close to a three anyway, or it will be too obvious. I've done it before, Eddie, and it's been done to me, also."

She went on: "Now the 'double-bet,' or 'push-bet' goes this way. Say we pick a spot where I'm well known; O.K.? I select the 'mark,' someone you can beat. Someone who thinks I'm the greatest and won't think of playing me. You enter the place later, and we set up a game with the guy. I start making some side bets with you -- that he can beat you. Then you get the actual money bet from him! When he sees he's getting beat and tries to start quitting, I jump in and let him know about all the money I've invested in him, and convince him he can beat you. Trust me; the fish will leave the joint flat-broke."

She visually took his temperature then as she proceeded: "A little more drastic measure (if there's a chance you might lose) would be to use a simple chemical compound called 'tar-tar.' It's a salt-like compound which can secretly be put into an opponent's drink or food. A large dose could be deadly, but a very small amount won't kill him. But it'll sure make his stomach upset enough to where he can't shoot worth a damn! A lot of things you should already know about -- like calling 'heads' on the coin-toss. 'Palming' the weights is another old trick. I'll show you ways to 'psych' someone out, too, Eddie. The conversation during the game is important, as well as your mannerisms. Concentration is the biggie -- and I'll work with you on that, too."

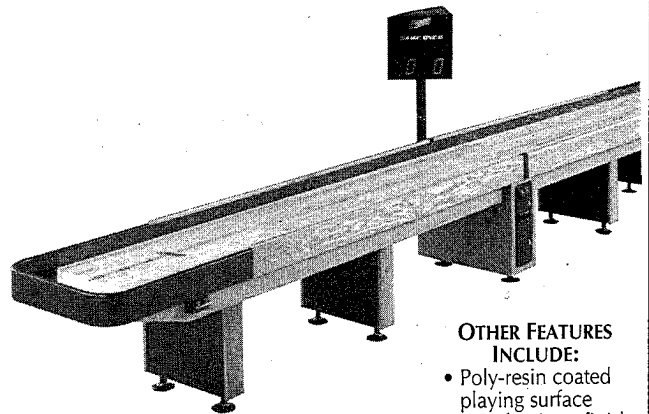
She looked him directly in the eyes then and said: "Well, what do you think so far, Champ? And this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Eddie's thought process worked quickly and without breaking eye contact, he made his reply.....

Will Eddie succumb to the charms of Long Beach Lil? Or will his inborne integrity take him in another direction? Balboa Ron assures us that the "hustling" tricks described here are not from his own experience, but those surfaced during his research. He thinks The World of Shuffleboard should be aware of what COULD be!

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