

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In the last episode, Tacoma Tim had taken Eddie and Lil to Gee Bee's, near Tacoma/Seattle and Tim and Lil had challenged Indiana and Wrapper, leaving Eddie stewing on the sidelines.)

Eddie had just slammed down his first shot of Wild Turkey with a beer chaser and had ordered another round while Lil and Tim were busy getting the first game set up with Indiana Joe and The Wrapper. The game had now started with Lil shooting first. She put up a very deep one, which almost touched the deuce line in the center of the board. This was her standard "come-out," or first shot, so her opponent was prevented from wrapping a weight in front of it.

Indiana Joe stuck Lil's weight dead center, hoping that if Lil followed suit, he could work the weights backward, so that he could maybe wrap one around on his second or third weight. Lil didn't give him that advantage, however, as she hit the weight, but moved hers over to the left into a one that split the deuce line. Indiana Joe stuck. Lil slid again on her third weight stick so the weight was now on the left rail. Indiana Joe hit and went on his third weight. Lil put up a right-cross which blocked off most of Indiana's right-hand lag area, considering the drift toward the center. This put pressure on him to try the left-hand lag. He had shot all right-handed in that frame. He sized it up and then shot. He knew the minute it left his hand that he would over-shoot -- and the weight slipped gently off the end of the board.

The next frame was different. The Wrapper was able to get one weight around a left-cross that Tim had shot, and it was a three. Tim either had to try the combo or get around the weight himself and hope he could clip it off. He tried the pass-shot and missed. The Wrapper covered with a left-cross which ended up just in front of Tim's back weight and really sewed things up. On Tim's final weight, he caught his own back weight, which resulted in a hit-and-go. This left the lag open for The Wrapper and, with good confidence in his shot, he lagged another three -- earning seven points for his effort!

Tim's face was full of remorse as he hollered "I'm sorry" to Lil. He really felt bad. Lil gave him a rather blank stare and said: "Don't worry. We'll get it back." This simply wasn't the case, however. Lil lagged like a pro, but Tim couldn't hold up his end, and they ended up losing the game, 15 to 9.

Lil was noticing Eddie out of the corner of her eye and was counting the number of "shooters" with the beer chasers he was putting down. While the board was being prepared for the next game, she strolled over to him and said: "Hey, Champ, I've been watching and you've

slugged down three of those set-ups now. What's going on?" Eddie replied: "Well now, if I'm not going to be in the action, I figured I'd start a little action on my own. Ha!"

Lil gave him a very sharp look then -- one that got his attention. She told him: "You listen here, jerk head; you're going to be in the action pretty soon now. Couldn't you have figured that out for your stupid self? We're going to play one more game, and lose, of course, just to whet their appetites a little. You're going to be up next, so knock this crap off right now, O.K.? This isn't going to be easy!" Eddie was thinking about coming back with a wise remark, but changed his mind when the look in Lil's eyes became even more commanding. He just said: "You got it, Babe." Lil said: "Well, that sounds good, but don't call me 'Babe' anymore, you chauvinist."

The second game was almost a repeat of the first one and Indiana Joe and The Wrapper were both feeling pretty comfortable with things at this juncture. Lil took Tim and Eddie into conference then and laid out the new strategy. Eddie would finally get into the action. In fact, he would get into ALL the action! Lil told him to get up, go over to the board, and place two quarters up. She also told him what to do and say....

After Eddie put his quarters up, he said: "I've been watching the action here, gents. and if you don't mind, I'd like to challenge this game." Indiana and The Wrapper looked over at Lil. She said: "I'm going to sit down and take a break, boys. This man is on his own." They both gave Eddie an inquisitive look and then Indiana said: "Are you for real, Lil?" She replied: "You betcha, cowboy," with a slight twinkle in her eyes. Indiana looked over to Eddie then and said: "We'd be glad to accommodate you, sonny boy. Just slide those quarters into the slot there and let's have at it. How much do you want to lose, my man?"

Eddie told them: "You guys have been playing for fifty bucks an end. I'll go you one better. How about we go for two hundred an end? Or I'll play one of you singles for four hundred, or more if that's what's on your mind." The two looked at each other with smiles of anticipation!

Eddie's heart was pounding as he awaited their reply. Lil had purposely put him into this challenge to see what he could do under this kind of pressure. She wasn't even entirely sure he could pull this off, but the big tournaments were coming up soon, and he needed this kind of "seasoning." His whole body was tingling with excitement and anticipation as Indiana Joe turned to him and said: "Well, buddy boy, here's how we're going to work it...."

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)