

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In the last episode, Frisko Eddie was in a big money game with Indiana Joe. Indiana was just about to make the shot that he thought would give him the victory and the purse.)

The weight looked good, and felt good, as Indiana Joe made his left-cross release. It had to be a perfect shot. Everyone held their breath as the weight started down its path. Then, as luck would have it, the weight barely skimmed the right side of Eddie's back weight, which put it off-course to the right. It was just enough so it missed the deuce that was sitting on the right rail!

The game was over -- 15 to 13. Eddie had won! Lil and Tim both gave Eddie a big hug then, while Indiana stood at the end of the table, shaking his head in disbelief.

The game was close enough so that Indiana wanted one more shot at it. They could only come up with \$800 for the game. Lil accepted their "back-jack," and gave the go-ahead. The board was prepared then, and the action started.

The game was close for the first half, and then Eddie broke things open with a 4-lag. Indiana had to gamble now, but it didn't pay off. Eddie was out-thinking and out-stroking him right down the line. It ended up 15 to 10, Eddie's favor. It was over.

The looks of serious disappointment and dejection on the faces of Indiana and The Wrapper were contrasted by the joy and cheering from the winner's side. The two men's heads were kind of low when Eddie shook hands with them.

Someone had to win....someone had to lose. They were professionals and refused Eddie's offer for "traveling money." They were smart enough to quit while they still had a little bit of a "stake" to start back up with at another time, and another place. They were both satisfied though that they had connected up with some real talent in this kid called "Frisko Eddie." The word would really start to get out now.

They all had drinks then -- several of them. By the time the smoke had cleared, it was decided (by Tim) that they had better spend one more night with him before they tried to take off.

They were all pretty happy as they loaded into Tim's Bronco. It was a cheerful ride to his house, filled with many jokes and old war stories. They even celebrated by stopping off at the good steak house in Puyallup for another excellent steak dinner.

After they got to Tim's, they made a count of the winnings. Including the side-bets, they had come out over \$6,000 to the good. Not bad for one day's work! They were all pretty exhausted by now, so they decided to turn

in so they could get an early start in the morning.

The intense action of the past few days had taken its toll on Tim. He was still sound asleep when Lil and Eddie were ready to leave in the morning. Lil left him a nice note of thanks before they left. Eddie felt like he was leaving a real friend....and a real gentleman.

After packing their things in the rental, they were on the road again. After a short drive, they approached the same juncture of 512 and I-5, as they had the day before. As then, they were faced with the choice of either turning right on I-5 to the airport, or hanging a left and heading south.

This was a tough decision for Lil. If they turned south toward Oregon, they would have to face one man she didn't think they were ready for yet. She had explained all this to Eddie.

As they got near the intersection, Eddie asked: "Well, my dear, which way do we turn? I feel like I can beat anyone in the world right now!"

Lil's mind was really buzzing. When she was finally forced to speak up, she said: "To hell with it -- turn to the....."

--CONTINUED NEXT MONTH--

Which way will they turn and how will that decision impact on the adventures of Frisko Eddie and Long Beach Lil? Will they meet the man Lil doesn't think they're quite ready for? Don't miss the next episode.

Author Balbo Ron has a new address: Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89123. If you have story ideas or just want to let him know you are enjoying his series, we encourage you to write to him. Your positive feedback is the only "pay" he receives for entertaining our readers every month.

Additions to "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." Listing

The following shuffleboard establishments have joined our national network since the last "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." was published in March. Please add them to your list, stop in and welcome them during your travels, and thank them for their support of your sport.

Indiana:

• American Legion Post 223, Syracuse; phone 219-457-3261

Missouri:

• Gravy's, 3165 S. Campbell, Springfield

• Family Sports Bar, 13154 Tesson Ferry, St. Louis; phone 314-842-3863