

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, just before the playoff between Eddie's and Lil's teams in the Pro-Am event, Shelli was given a note warning her to tell her man: "I will not accept second place." It was signed "D.")

After looking at the note that Shelli handed them, Lil exclaimed: "Why, that S.O.B.! He's trying to blackmail you here with this threat! I called Tony, but he just said he'd 'look into the matter.' What I want you guys to do now is stall this thing for a few minutes, and let me try to contact him again. This changes the whole picture, and I want to let him know that so he can get some backup for us -- right now!" Eddie said: "I'm with you, kid. Get going and we'll take care of things on this end."

Eddie had a little bit of trouble trying to stall things off until Lil returned. The players (and the crowd) were anxious to get going. The tournament director, Max Dermmot, came up and asked Eddie if there were any problems. Just as he was going to make an attempt to dream something up, he noticed that Lil was coming through the door: "No problems, Max -- we're ready to start." He said "O.K." but he remained in the area until things got rolling.

Lil had just enough time to say to Eddie: "Thank goodness, I got through. He said for all of us to be careful, and that he would have his people take care of this business. He said no matter what, for us to stay with the crowd here in the main room for better security, and for everyone to shoot their best, and not worry about that message that Dollar Dan gave us."

And shoot their best they did. Both teams were putting on a splendid performance. All the games were very close and the crowd was loving it! Lil's team won the first series, but it was very close, with a 9 to 5 game finish. They were jumping with joy because had they lost that one -- it would have been all over since they had come from the losers bracket. The two teams were now tied in the final series, and the deciding game was in progress. The next couple of frames would determine the first and second place finishers in the whole event.

On one end of the table were a pair of "3" rated players and on the other end were none other than Frisko Eddie and Long Beach Lil. The score was 12 to 13 in Lil and her partner's favor. Eddie's partner had the hammer and the frame went weight for weight. Lil's partner had to shoot against a deep 1, in the center of the board, with her last weight. She looked at Lil for advice and Lil responded with: "Don't worry about sticking -- just make sure you get that weight off the board, O.K.?"

Lil's partner followed the advice and put plenty of speed on her weight, and made the shot, but it was a

"hit and go." Now it was Eddie's turn to comment. He met his partner at the center of the board, and asked him: "How do you feel, Champ?" He replied: "Pretty damn shaky right now!" Eddie said: "O.K., don't worry. You can try for a lag, but the most important thing is to make sure you keep the weight on the board so Lil doesn't get a free hammer out of this." "I'll do my best, Eddie," was the reply. Eddie looked him in the eye then and said: "That's all I can ask for, partner. You'll do fine."

He took his time on the open board lag. He released a right cross, which turned out to be a deep 1. It was now 13 all, with Lil's hammer! They traded weights. Eddie went deep, so she couldn't try to hide one on him. Lil hit-and-went on her third weight. Eddie knew that her favorite lag was the right cross, so he measured his shot very carefully, and put up a right cross of his own, which settled into a real deep 1, about a quarter of an inch from being a 2, and about six inches or so off the left rail.

The crowd was really keyed up now, in anticipation of Lil's shot. Just as she was sizing things up for a free hander, something happened. Two men had muscled their way in front on the other end of the table. One was the Ape-man and the other was Dollar Dan -- the Money Man!

Lil's eyes locked with Dollar Dan's for several seconds. The looks were remarkably intense. Lil shifted the hammer to her right hand then. There were basically three options open to her now. She could shoot the right thumb for the lag, or try to hit-and-slide off the right side of Eddie's weight into a 2 or 3, or she could shoot the right cross, and wrap it around the left side for the lag. All she needed was that deuce!

She decided to shoot the right cross lag, and wrap it around on the left side. You could hear a pin drop in that crowded room as she made her release.

Strangely enough, the Money Man had a hint of a smile on his face as he watched the weight sail down the board. It looked perfect -- really perfect -- and someone even broke the silence as it made its way down by shouting: "She made it! She lagged a....."

--CONTINUED NEXT MONTH--

Did Lil get the deuce she needed to win? And, if so, how will that impact on Dollar Dan's threat to Eddie? Don't miss the next exciting episode!

Message from Balboa Ron to Virgin Sue:

"Your Hairlip Dog story was just delightful! I look forward to more of your adventures."