

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

EPISODE 80 -- A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert -- June 2001 Issue

(In the last Episode 79, we found Eddie giving his reply to Long Beach Lil, after her challenge for them to play some "serious" shuffleboard).

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Eddie had conferred with Shelli (and she indicated she'd go along with him on whatever he decided) before he gave Lil his response to her challenge. In something less than a friendly voice he told her: "If you can get the ok to use the table over there, I'll give you all the action you want Lil".

It took Lil a moment before she replied: "That's fine Eddie, but about the "I'll" part...the action here has to include you AND Shelli in a doubles arrangement - or it's no go. Eddie knew he could take either one in singles, or he could walk it against them and win. Shelli needed a little more experience to make this a 50-50 proposition. He decided to talk it over a little with her before giving his final agreement.

He tried to reason with her, but Shelli was confident that she could hold up her end. She was so convincing that in the end - even Eddie thought it might be a good idea if she played.

Lil and Texas Kid went over to talk to the owner whose name was Clara. Although there was an A-B Draw to begin after the Calcutta for tomorrow's tournament, Lil was still able to talk her into a deal. She agreed to let them play one round, best out of five games, and that was all. She said she had to work it that way so they could use the third board to wrap up the finals of the A-B games before closing time.

It wasn't exactly what Lil had planned for, but it was either "take it or leave it", so she decided to "take it." There was a reason for Lil wanting to play on the single board on the right side of the horseshoe shaped bar.

Unknown to Eddie, they had been in the bar early in the morning and had practiced on that very table. They knew it like the palm of their hands!

They returned to Eddie's table, and Lil proceeded to lay it out for them.

The word was buzzing around the bar by now, and several of the other players and spectators were kind of pressing in to find out what was going on. It didn't take long before word spread that they may be going to witness the biggest money match game ever held in their bar, or in their State for that matter!

When it was explained, Eddie seemed satisfied with the best 3 out of 5 setup. He didn't want Shelli involved in a "marathon" session. After all, she was in the forth month of her pregnancy. He looked Lil straight in the eye then and said: "Well now Lil, this is rather unexpected, but we did come to play; so I guess the only matter of business to be settled now - is just how "serious" you and your partner Tex here are about this game?

Lil returned his look and replied: "I lost a whole lot of money when you beat me in Reno Champ, and I intend to get a chunk of it back here. I don't know how much cash you have on you, but your check will be okay for collateral with me." Her look grew in intensity as she reached in her bag and said: "Here's my bankroll Eddie. I have \$6,000 here - and that's my bet...no more, and no less."
(TO BE CONTINUED)

(Wow - that's a lot of cash to put on the line; even for Eddie. It would also put a lot of pressure on Shelli as well. Eddie is also smart enough to be sure that Lil has some special little "tricks" up her sleeve as well! Be sure and tune in next month's issue to see if Eddie will go for this "deal").

[Editors' Comment: Sounds like they are about to duke it out as in the below cartoon from "Shuffleboard World," June 1950, p. 5].

