

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, after Eddie and Lil had lost four games to one to the Texas Kid and Fat Max, Lil arranged for Eddie to take on the Kid in a best 3 out of 5 singles for \$2500. The Kid's backer, Money Man, was certain he had a winner.)

The best 3 out of 5 series for \$2500 began with Eddie calling "heads" and winning the hammer. He felt a lot more comfortable now because he could go "all-out," including his lag. It wasn't easy to get the lag back, however, after he had purposely been "choking" or lagging off the board. As a result, the Texas Kid won the first game 15 to 10. The score was 14-12 in Eddie's favor in the second game. The Kid lagged a miracle three with his hammer, against two of Eddie's weights.

Lil had a little conference with Eddie then. She said, "That last shot was pure luck, Champ. You've got to win the next three games or we're out of here. Just settle down now; you're far better than this guy."

Dollar Dan, the Money Man, had a look of pure pleasure on his face as the third (and what he thought would be the final) game began. Eddie started to smooth out and his lag began to improve. He beat the Kid the third and fourth games by a narrow margin. The look of pure pleasure on Dollar Dan's face had now turned to one of major concern. His "paid help," the Ape Man, who was stationed near the entrance door, was on the alert now and seriously taking in all the action.

The final game went basically weight-for-weight, until Eddie broke things open with a three lag. The score was 13-11 then, in Eddie's favor. The Kid tied things up with a deuce lag. On the next frame, he gave Eddie a very short deuce (a left cross) to shoot against with his final weight. This was the exact shot that Lil had pointed out to Eddie in the practice session before the action began -- where you could ride the rail with the left cross, if you hit on just the right spot. Eddie sized up the weight, knowing that this would be the last shot of the game. He sprinkled a little wax on the left rail before his shot, and then let it go. He was shooting AT the weight, and the release felt good. His weight caught just the right spot and gently nudged the Kid's weight off the board, and then slid into a short three. The game -- and the match -- were over!

There were no cheers from the crowd as Lil went over to collect the bet. Dollar Dan had a very angry look on his face, but he reluctantly allowed Lil to pick up the \$5,000 stake from the bar. She told him: "Thanks for the bet, Dan; that was too close for comfort."

Lil went back down the bar then to congratulate Eddie, and also to give the Money Man and the Kid a chance to

figure out their strategy. She gave Eddie a hug and told him: "You played it just right, Champ! I think it was close enough to where Texas Kid's pride and the Money Man's anger at losing will push them into another series. I'm goin' back over there now and help them make up their minds."

As Lil approached, they were in a heated dialogue, trying to figure out how to deal with their loss and get their money back. At the right moment, Lil made a comment: "That series was pretty close and I feel fortunate that my man won. We'd be happy to walk right on out of here as winners -- but just to be fair, we're willing to continue the action here.....if that's what's on your minds."

Now the Texas Kid had just about convinced Dollar Dan that he could "take him" if a second series was played. The question now was the money management strategy. Dollar Dan looked into Lil's eyes then and said: "This may sound unwise, after my man has just lost, but the deal I'm going to make is this. We double the stake and let them go for another 3 out of 5 series. How about that, Lady?"

Lil took her time in responding. She was laughing inside, but had a very concerned look on her face when she gave her reply: "My policy is to let the opponents try to get their money back -- the same way I won it. If I allow you to keep doubling, for sure your man will win one and clean me out." She "checked his temperature" then and set the hook by saying: "Here's what I'm willing to do. Dan. I'll put my \$5,000 up on the bar and you match it. The players get one more series, but win or lose -- one of us picks up the \$10,000 and that's it, and that's that. What I'm saying here is that this will be a 'one-shot-deal' -- end of story, O.K.?"

The Money Man didn't say a word as he peeled off \$5,000 and placed it next to him on the bar. Lil said: "Well, I guess the negotiations are over, Dan," as she placed their \$5,000 next to his.

The crowd had grown now and a lot of side-talk was brewing about who was going to win. All this would turn into a dead silence once the games began. The board was wiped down and then spray-waxed and polished. The powdered wax was then applied. Lil and Eddie noticed that they had switched to the white "Super Lightning Flash" wax this time. Lil gave Eddie another little pep talk then: "This is the game we came here for, Champ. Don't worry about making it close now. Just pull out all the stops, and let them see some real shuffleboard!"

Dollar Dan gave the Texas Kid some "side-bar" advice by saying: "Now, you go out there and shoot your

damndest to beat him, O.K.? Winning would be the best, but either way, they can forget about walking out of here

with the 10 grand."

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH....)

Tolo Tavern Memorial Tourney a Big Success

The Tolo Tavern in Central Point, Oregon, hosted a singles and doubles tournament over the Memorial weekend that began Friday night with a draw partner. That event was won by Desi Guches and John Mortensen, both of Central Point. In second place were Gordy Smith of British Columbia and Harold Payne of Central Point. Sherm Anderson of Edison, Washington, and Whitey Craven of Central Point finished third, with Jim Reed of Springfield and Larry Balzer of Central Point in fourth.

There were 16 players in Saturday's singles, with Desi Guches taking top honors. Second place went to John Mull of Springfield, with John King of Medford in third and Jim Reed in fourth.

Sunday's doubles event was won by Steve Fisher of Winston and Mike Waters from Tacoma, Washington. John Mull and Sparky Williams, also from Springfield, took second, with John King and Jim Reed in third.

"Thanks to hosts pay and Leroy Burkhart and all their helpers for a great tournament and a fantastic barbeque on Saturday," reports Sherry Allen.

"It was a pleasure to meet Tony and Dottie Bastanchury, who came all the way from Southern California for the tournament," she said.



In the winners' circle for the singles at the Tolo Tavern were (left to right) Jim Reed, John King, John Mull, and top money-taker Desi Guches.

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-- let alone host one. They were always willing to work with us, correcting the mistakes and making sure everyone had a good time.

"A fune young man and a newcomer to the scene, Dennis Winsor, put in two days of hard work running the bracket board with everyone telling him, 'do it this way.'

"Everett is back on the shuffleboard map!" said John.

A Board Talk Salute to..... Sol Lipkin!



Editors George & Donna Wilber salute Sol Lipkin, a legend himself (honored by The Shuffleboard Federation in 1992 for a lifetime of service to the sport of shuffleboard), for representing the American International Shuffleboard Co. at the Mickey Mickens Memorial Tournament at Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland. We hope to "hang in there" long enough to honor him.....A tough act to follow!

***The Turtle and the Hare
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in the
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Skip's/Board Talk
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