

# ***Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return***

**EPISODE 81 -- A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert -- July 2001 Issue**

*(In our last episode we found Eddie having to either accept, or reject Lil's challenge to go the best out of 5 games for a total of \$6000. Let's see how this is all going to turn out...)*

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Eddie contemplated his answer while continuing to stare into Lil's eyes. He knew he had Shelli's support in whatever his decision would be. He made his reply: "We're in Lil, but I will have to write a check for our part of the stake." Lil had a slight grin on her face as she replied: "That'll be just fine Champ. Let's go over to the bar, and you make out the check, and we'll leave it and my \$6000 with the owner for safekeeping." Eddie said that would be just fine. They stepped over to the bar to finish that business, and also to hammer out the smaller details of how the playoff would be conducted.

Among other things, it was determined (because the table was "supposedly" new to all the players) that they would all get 8 practice shots from both ends of the table. They had to wait a few minutes while a "volunteer" prepared the board. He wiped it down and applied a coat of spray wax. It took a few minutes for it to dry, and then he waxed it with "Lightning Fast" powdered wax. Shelli was really getting excited because she was actually going to be a part of this kind of "action". Eddie stood by her while she practiced, and pointed out some of the things of importance, as well as going over their strategy. Lil and Texas Kid were the challengers, so it was only fair for them to declare which ends of the board they would be shooting from. After some deliberation, it was decided that Lil and Shelli would be playing against each other, and the two men would compete on the end located closest to the entrance. Eddie had arranged things this way because he was familiar with both Lil and the Kids play; however, Shelli had never gone up against the Kid, and would have had to waste some valuable time getting used to his style of play. After the Calcutta was over for the main Tournament, which would be played the next day, the coin toss for the money series was made. Eddie called Heads, and he was correct. Most of the players and spectators which weren't immediately involved in the A/B draw were now moving over to the other side of the bar so they could catch all of the "match game" action. There were also a bunch of "side bets" made and a lot of commotion going on. This all simmered down when the Texas Kid made his first shot to begin the series. It was (as anticipated) a very deep 1 freehand shot, which stopped in the center of the table. Eddie hit and stuck on that one. The Kid stuck perfectly on his next shot. Eddie hit and slid to the

left on his next weight. He did this to avoid a possible "wrap around", as the weight was positioned just far enough back then for The Kid to try one. The Kid hit-and-went on his next one, so Eddie put up a short deuce on the left rail. It was another hit-and-go on the next shot, which left the board clean for Eddie's hammer. The room was almost completely silent as Eddie sized things up for his first lag. He shot the freehand – and it ended up a deep deuce. Eddie was satisfied with that, but not with the return half of the frame. It was obvious that Shelli was going to have her hands full with Lil.

The two women had not been speaking, or even looking directly at one another as they played. The bad blood that was between them (mainly for Lil trying to ruin their wedding) was still boiling. Shelli's anger was interfering with her game – causing her to miss some shots, and even to misread some of the traps she set her up for. Lil was starting to make some snide little quiet remarks now as they played. As a result, they lost the first game by a wide margin – 15 to 10! Eddie and Shelli had a conference before the second game started. He tried to explain that her emotions were causing them to be outplayed, and outgunned. She said she'd try to correct things. The second game was better than the first...but they still lost it – 15 to 13. This was it now. If they lost ANY of the remaining three games it was all over! Eddie was really getting steamed now. He told Shelli: "Look; if you want to play shuffleboard, and really get your head into this game ok. On the other hand, if you'd rather duke it out with Lil – let's just forfeit the \$6000, and you two can have at it. Don't you know that she's beyond pleasure, because she's managing to "psych" you out? Shelli looked him directly in the eyes then and said: "Honey, all I can promise is that I'll do my best. Have some trust in me now sweetheart, ok?" The board was freshly waxed, and the quarters put in. As Eddie walked down to his end of the board to start he was thinking, "I have to trust her - I have to. She means everything to me, and...I DO trust her!" (Hey now! It looks like Lil is using an old "con" here. Can Shelli shake off her negative emotions long enough to keep them in this series or not? You know that just about ANYTHING can – and probably will happen...so tune in next month!) (TO BE CONTINUED)