

# Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

*A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert*

*(In last month's episode, Frisko Eddie beat the Texas Kid in a 3 out of 5 series for \$5000. Lil has convinced Dollar Dan to back his man for another 3 out of 5 'one-shot-deal' for \$10,000.)*

The board was ready to go; the \$10,000 stake was up; and Eddie won the toss -- it came up heads. On his first shot, he noticed that the board was really fast now. They went weight for weight the first few frames. Eddie felt good about his shooting now. He had the "touch," and his timing and releases were perfect. Man, he felt good! This was everything he had expected real shuffleboard to be. He didn't have to think about where the weights were going.... he **knew**!

The score was 7 to 6 in Eddie's favor. It was Texas Kid's lag, and he went against Eddie's center 1 with a right cross. The weight ended up almost in the center, behind Eddie's 1, in the 3 zone. This made the score 9 to 7.

On the way down the board, Lil drew Eddie aside and said: "It sure looked like that last lag stopped too quick, Champ. My guess is that he 'salted' that spot a little. We've got two options here. You could shoot a free-hand, and wipe the spot off with the heel of your hand, and then sprinkle some fresh wax on it. The best way, though, would be to leave it alone, and when you have the lag for that end, you can go for the same spot. If he has the lag, block the spot with your last weight. Let's beat them at their own game, O.K.?"

Eddie followed Lil's advice and, four frames later, the score was 12 all, with Eddie's hammer. The Kid put up a deep 1 in the center on his last shot. Eddie sized up things, and shot the right-cross lag. It stopped (a little too quickly) near the center of the board, on the same spot -- in the 3-zone.

That 3 broke the Kid down, and he started to gamble the next game. Eddie won that one, too. Only one more win to go! On the third game, Eddie was ahead 10 to 7. He asked Texas Kid: "How come you're playing it so loose -- with all the gambling?" The Kid responded: "It doesn't really matter, Frisko....now does it?" Eddie tried to figure that one out as he kept the pressure on. The score was 14 to 11, with the Kid's hammer. Eddie had the lagging spot covered. The Kid made his lag. It was close, but it gently fell off the end. It was all over!

The crowd wasn't cheering, or anything. In fact, all of the people just moved slowly on back to the other side of the horse-shoe shaped bar. Lil came up to Eddie then and gave him a hug. She whispered in his ear: "No questions now, Champ. What I want you to do is to head

toward the front door and say real loud that 'I have to get some cigarettes from the car.' Walk right on past Ape-Man and say it so he can hear you. When you get outside, start the car -- and have the passenger door open. I'll be out there, O.K., and you be ready to 'put the rubber to the road.' Do exactly what I say, or we're in some kind of trouble." There was a tense kind of aura that fell over the room.

Eddie sensed an uneasy feeling. He knew now what the Kid meant earlier when he said, "It really doesn't matter." He wanted to stay with Lil, to help in whatever was going to happen. She had been right-on-the-money so far, though, so he decided to follow her lead.

He started to walk down the bar toward the door. At the same time, Lil went over to where Dollar Dan--the Money Man -- was sitting. She tried to muster a smile as she said: "Well, my man got hot, Dan, he was shooting way over his head." Dollar Dan had a hint of a smile on his face as he replied: "Is that right? You know, I'd swear he was always that good, Lady." He was looking deep into Lil's eyes now. It was a totally chilling and intimidating look. Lil stared right back at him.

Eddie continued on down the bar, and when he got close to the Ape-Man, he hollered out: "I've got to go to the car and get a pack of cigs, Lil -- I'll be right back."

Two things happened simultaneously then -- the Ape Man raised his huge body and blocked Eddie's way out; and the Money Man (still staring Lil down), reached out and placed his hand on the \$10,000 stake.

*(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)*

## ATTENTION READERS!

*If you are enjoying Balboa Ron's  
Frisko Eddie's Revenge series,  
(or have story ideas for him)  
please let him know:*

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