

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

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(In our last episode we found Eddie and Shelli way out on a limb, having lost the first two games of a best out of five series – for the tidy sum of \$6000. Eddie had tried his best to free Shelli from Lil's plan to mess up her game through egging on her already "righteous" anger over Lil having tried to ruin their wedding in Reno. There was more than the money at stake here...they had to win the next three games. Let's see what happens!)

Eddie won the toss to begin the third game. He knew he was better than the Texas Kid, but more important...the Kid knew it too. Similarly; Lil had an edge on Shelli – so what it really boiled down to was a stand-off between the current #1 and #2 players in the world!

Eddie felt good when they started. He knew it was just a matter of time before The Kid would open up an opportunity for him to set him up and steal some points. Put that in concert with Eddie's strong lag, and things should start to look good from their end. However, the key to this whole thing would be found on the girls end.

On Eddie's hammer, he was left with a deep one to go against. He still had that "comfortable" feeling, so he tried the lag. He shot the right cross lag, and it ended up a very deep 3. He drew a round of applause – he definitely had the "feeling" now!

On the return frame, Shelli decided to just play "weight-for-weight" and to hit and go to make sure Lil didn't get a chance to hide any weights. It worked out well, and Lil was left with a clean board to lag on. She chose the freehand, and it settled in the center of the two zone. The game continued with the same flavor, with Eddie's lag dominating. The score was 13 to 11, and Shelli had the hammer this time. Lil put up a very shallow deuce on her last shot. Shelli sized things up – and the room was silent when she made her release. Her weight clipped the side of Lils', and settled into a deep deuce. She had won the game! The crowd really cheered them now! Eddie met her mid-board to give her a big hug and to tell her: "Sweetheart, that was great! Just keep on doing what your doing - we have them on the run now!"

That game definitely had an adverse affect on Lil and The Kid. They acted kind of accusatory toward each other during the break. Eddie and Shelli both noticed that, and realized that an even greater psychological advantage had now been placed in their favor. They were 100% ready for the next game!

The fourth game seemed to be taking on essentially the same tone as the previous one. The crowd was definitely behind Shelli and Eddie. This of course, bolstered their spirits, while having a depressing effect on Lil and The Kid. Shelli kept banging away on her end, while Eddie's lag was solid. The scoreboard showed 12 to 15 at the end – they had evened it up to 2 games each now. The crowd went crazy once again!

Lil and her partner had a rather long, and intense discussion during the final break. Eddie had a feeling that there might be some surprises forthcoming. It turned out that he was right. When they came out for the last game, their opponents had decided to switch ends! It was Lil who would flip the coin for Eddie to call. As she tossed it in the air, she commented: "The usual 'heads' – right Champ?" Lil had a sneering grin on her face as the coin stopped – with the tails showing. Almost from the start, this was developing into a slightly different game. There wasn't an appreciable change on Shelli's end, but Eddie was having a little less luck with his lag from his end. However, Lil seemed to be able to lag a solid 3 – anytime she wanted to!

The crowd was beginning to show a little anxiety, and Shelli was too. The score was now 10 to 6 in Lil's favor. Eddie requested a break. He met Shelli mid-board. It was obvious that she was getting pretty anxious over the situation, and was looking for some good advice. Eddie looked her in the eye, and in a reassuring tone told her: "Precious, I know what's happening here. All I want you to do is to keep on doing what you're doing. Your lag is as good, or better than this guy's – so use it if you have the chance. The "flavor" of this game just isn't right...but let me fix the whole thing from my end, ok. Trust me sweetheart."

Lil had a curious look on her face when Eddie returned. She commented: "Well, did you get everything all straightened out Champ?" He had the grin on his face now as he looked her directly in the eye and said: "Yup, I sure did. Now let's play some shuffleboard...Lillian."

(What's with this "Lillian"? Also; what does Eddie know that we don't – and how is he possibly going to pull this thing out of the fire? I'm kind of anxious to find out what's going to happen myself (Ha). Don't miss next months issue!)

(TO BE CONTINUED)