

## Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

*(In the last episode, Frisko Eddie had beaten "The Man" in a best out of three match for \$500. The Man (Glen Dawson) then challenged Eddie to another series, this time for \$1500.)*

Lil's remark about Glen lagging off the board instead of trying for the "hit-and-slide" on Eddie's last weight (a short deuce) was going through his mind as the table was being prepared for the next series of games. The \$1,500 he had put up wasn't bothering him, but Lil's comments, coupled with how quickly his opponent proppeded they "jack it up" to the \$3,000 which was now at stake was. The money sat under an ashtray next to Lil.

Glen Dawson (The Man) seemed very relaxed now as they flipped for the hammer. Eddie called "heads" as usual (he knew that out of 1,000 quarter coin tosses, heads would come up with a slight edge). This time, however, the coin landed tails up. Eddie would shoot first.

The first game was a reversal of the last series, with Glen dominating the game. He made some extraordinary shots, winning hands-down, 15 to 11. A lot of money was changing hands on the side during these games and several cheers went up when Glen won.

The second game saw Eddie in trouble once more. It was a little closer this time, but Eddie still trailed 11 to 14, with his hammer. The board was clear for Glen's last shot. He placed a very short right-hand weight just over the foul line. He did this because Eddie had been relying predominantly on the right-hand lag.

With the score 11 to 14 against him on his last weight, Eddie's options were very limited. He could go for it all with a lag, or he could keep the game alive by making sure his hammer stayed on the board, and hope he could salvage something on the next frame. The way Glen was shooting though, it was highly unlikely he could get him in a trap. He decided to go for it all.

Eddie sized up the board for his left-hand lag. He had been hitting a spot pretty good with his left-cross, so he chose that for his last shot. After he sprinkled some wax on the left rail, he got set for his shot. His whole body was tingling as he released the weight. It felt good.

The crowd was totally silent now as Eddie's final shot sailed down the table. There was one muffled voice, though, stating "it's goin' off." The weight didn't look like it would stay at the end, but to the surprise of all -- it stuck. It was a four! Eddie again hollered out loud, "Yes!" as he raised his fist!

Glen was smiling and even shaking his head in humorous disbelief over Eddie's lag. Any time someone

can slide a 2" round puck some 20 feet down a slick wooden surface, and leave 1/8th of an inch or more of it hanging over the far end of that plank -- he has had help from above (or from below, depending on who lagged the weight)! He was snickering as he looked over at Lil.

Eddie didn't even try to confer with Lil after his lag. He felt he had enough confidence now to go all the way -- without her attitude to slow him up. He was really pumped up now!

The third or "rubber" game saw Eddie coming out very strong. All of his weights were doing exactly as he wanted them to. The game stayed close, though, until Glen set Eddie up with a left-cross "wrap." The score was 13 all and Glen's front weight was in the deuce zone. Eddie had the option of either going from the combo, or following Glen's left cross and either knocking his weight off, or "tucking" one in ahead of it.

Eddie took a moment to two to form his strategy. This was a \$3,000 shot -- the biggest one he had ever had to make entirely on his own (without Lil's help as a partner). The weights were aligned in a way that made ANY choice extremely tough. The crowd was deadly silent now. Eddie took a glance over at Lil, hoping for even a slim sign of support. Her eyes met his briefly, then turned down toward the floor in a totally dispassionate way. He felt like he was an actor standing center stage -- but they were starting to dim the lights and close the curtain.

He opted to go for the left-cross again. He carefully sized up the board, sprinkled some wax on the left rail, and then made his release. As the weight made its way across the board, it became obvious that Eddie was trying to tuck his weight even further ahead of Glen's deuce. The shot looked good; then, at the last second, the drift brought it in contact with Glen's front weight -- and Eddie's careened off the board. He had gently boosted Glen's weight into a three!

All Glen had to do now was throw a short weight (or even throw it in the gutter) with his hammer. The game -- and the series -- was over! Eddie was hanging his head in shame.

Glen strolled over to Lil. As she handed him the \$3,000 stake, he remarked: "Thanks, Doll. You're not going to pull your man up now, are you?" He had a glint in his eyes and a small smile on his face as he made a second remark: "After all, he might even come back and win a few games."

Similarly, with smiling eyes, Lil looked at him squarely and said: "Well, now, Glen, my man, I don't think I'm gonna have to pull him off." With that, she got up, made her way over to the center of the table, placed