

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

EPIISODE 83 -- A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert -- September 2001 Issue

(In our last episode the \$6000 match-off challenge was down to the 5th, and final game. Eddie and Shelli were running into quite a bit of trouble, as the score was 10 to 6 – in Long Beach Lil and her partner, Texas Kids favor. Eddie had a short conference with Shelli, wherein he explained to her that he thought he knew where the problem lied, and for her to just keep on shooting the way she was – and he would handle things from his end of the board. Let's just look in now – and see if Eddie can save the day!)

The next frame left Eddie with the hammer. He had finally noticed that Lil had been making all of her “seemingly easy” 3 lags with the right cross. He was almost sure he knew why now – and the right cross lag he was about to make would prove it. After sprinkling some wax on the right rail, he delivered his shot. He put a little extra speed on the weight, just to see if his theory was correct. His weight looked fast going down – but slowed rather quickly...just as it entered the three zone. When it came to a full stop – it was it was a deep, deep three! That made the score 9 to 10. They were only one point behind - but better yet; Eddie's suspicions were confirmed. Indeed, there was some foul play going on...and he knew exactly what it was!

The return frame saw Shelli plugging along, weight for weight, and holding her own. She left *The Kid* with a deep 1, near center board on her last shot. The Kid was sizing things up now. As he was doing that, Lil suddenly called him to the center of the table for a conference. She told him to “go all the way” with his lag. Her rationale was that even if he lagged off, it would put the hammer in her hands, with a 10 to 10 score. The Kids release looked good, and everyone thought it might even be a four lag. However, the weight hesitated, hanging off the end (for what seemed a very long time to Shelli and Eddie) but then it gently toppled off into the gutter! The Kid was swearing, and shaking his fist with anger then – but Lil hollered down to him “not to worry; we've got the hammer now!” Lil put up a left cross 1 on her first weight. Eddie stuck, but also slid over toward the center of the board. Lil hit and stuck with her next weight. Eddie responded by moving his next weight even further to the left, which covered up the spot Lil had been using for her lag. She had a disgusted look on her face as she attempted to hit; and slide the weight over to the right again. She went too far though, and it slid off the right side of the table. Eddie's task was clear now. He had to block that right cross lagging spot of hers. There were two basic ways he could do this; one was to shoot the short weight on the right, which would block any right hand

rail attempt, or he could shoot a deep one right cross of his own, which would also block it off. He chose the right cross option. He covered the lagging spot perfectly. Lil had an ugly look on her face as she lined up for her left hand lag. Lil tried to be careful not to go off on her lag, but her speed was too great, and it went off the end! This made the score 11 to 10, in Eddie and Shelli's favor. On the next frame Shelli kept banging away, and left a deep 1 for *The Kid* to lag against. He lagged a short three – which really hurt; because the score was now 11 to 13 in Lil's favor.

On the next round, Eddie engineered a deep deuce on the right side of the table with his third weight. Lil wanted to hit and slide over to the left in an attempt to cover the lagging spot. As it turned out, she barely was able to move it slightly over, sticking in the 2 zone. This was it – now or never. A three wouldn't really do them that much, because chances were good that *The Kid* could come back with a deuce, and win the whole thing on the next frame.

One thing in Eddie's favor, was that he had finessed things so that the lagging spot was open. He waxed down the right rail, bent over to size things up, and prepared to shoot. He had been careful to make sure that *The Kid* hadn't gotten near the spot he'd be aiming for, so there wouldn't be any changes there. When he was perfectly ready, he made his release.

The weight looked like it had too much speed going down, and you could hear some groans from the crowd. When it final came to a (rather abrupt) stop – it was a solid FOUR! They had done it – they had WON! Eddie and Lil gave each other knowing looks. Lil walked over to pick up her bag, and told *The Kid*: “Let's leave – NOW!” And that they did. Eddie and Shelli ran toward each other then for some serious hugging, kissing, and shouting! After everything had quieted down, and they were about to leave, Shelli asked Eddie: “I want you to tell me here and now exactly what went on back there!” Eddie smiled as he told her: “It was salt my Dear – common table salt! *The Kid* had sprinkled a little of it on Lil's Right cross lagging spot. It's one of the oldest tricks in the book. I'll explain it all later OK.” He told her that there was something more important right now. With that, he took her in his arms...and gave her the longest embrace and kiss that anyone present had ever seen! *(Advice from the author: For anyone who has read this; and might have some notion to give the “salt” thing a little tryout – DON'T DO IT!! You WILL get caught at it – and what happens after that...is not very pleasant at all!!)*

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)