

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 2 No. 8

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 421 E.
Sheridan Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906; phone 517-371-2538.

August 1985

The Hammer

Who the hell is Anthony Cacciavillani (alias Conch)? That's what bidders in *The Board Talk's* 1st annual national shuffleboard tournament singles event calcutta were asking. They kept their money in their jeans for a chance to bid on some of the bigger names and Anthony bought himself for \$15, a modest investment for the 2nd place entry and calcutta pot he won.

It was just a year ago that Philadelphia, Pa., shuffleboard booster Jim Yankauskas (alias Yank) told Anthony that he'd have to practice hard to make the team. He did work hard, he did make the team, and now he's made a name for himself in national shuffleboard circles. He'll never go for \$15 in a calcutta again.

In retrospect, that's what our first national tournament was all about. It was the Anthonys carving out a reputation for themselves in the World of Shuffleboard. It was the second generation players like Michigan great Jim Hoffman's daughter, Jamie, lagging consistent 3's and 4's against Anthony's team in the 4-person mixed event. It was opportunities for players from the Midwest to meet players from the East and gain respect for each other as players and as individuals from all walks of life.

In a nutshell, it put the spotlight where *The Board Talk* thinks it ought to be — on the "little people" who day after day, week after week, pump quarters into the boards to improve their game, and on the biggies who have earned their reputations for good play and good sportsmanship.

For the organizers, it was a learning, character-building experience. Two weeks before the big event, postponement — even cancellation — was under consideration. *The Board Talk* editors — Donna in the hospital for emergency surgery and George depressed by a "to do" list that kept growing instead of shrinking — took a look at the event we had promoted for several months and at the strikes that were against us.

Strike One — In terms of financial support, all national distributors and suppliers had failed to respond to our invitations for sponsorship of this first. That meant the financial load would have to be carried by the few local and area supporters who had responded (identified in this issue, bless them!), by our hosts, the Log Cabin Bar, and by us. That scared us!

Strike Two — Indications for participation were cause for panic. The Ryan brothers from New York and their party from the East were the only pre-registered, pre-paid participants. A letter from Oregon eliminated hopes for Northwest participation with medical and job-related reasons. A call from Oklahoma that Bill Melton's Little League team had made the finals on the 4th of July weekend scratched important participation from the Southwest. (That didn't stop Bill from promoting *The Board Talk*. He sent in 13 new subscribers, more than we collected during our tournament!)

Strike Three — We decided not to opt for this call. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation and great sportsmanship of players east of the Mississippi; thanks to the

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Tourney Talk

Hostess Nite Club, Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 3

A double elimination doubles tourney will be held at the Hostess Nite Club, 1401 Starr Ave., Toledo on Aug. 3. Entry fee \$50 per team. Pays four places, 50%, 25%, 15% and 10%. Calcutta starts at noon sharp. Two boards. For information, call 419-698-9251 and ask for Lynn, Randy or Jim.

McCleer's Saloon, Lansing, Mich., Aug. 10

McCleer's Saloon, 910 W. Saginaw, Lansing, will host a mixed doubles tournament on Aug. 10, beginning at 1 p.m. \$20 per team entry fee, calcutta, pays 60%, 30%, 10%. Trophies for 1st and 2nd places. For information, call 517-484-8656.

Chip-Kicker, Houston, Texas, Aug. 17-18

\$50 draw on Saturday, Aug. 17, \$100 bring your partner on Sunday, Aug. 18. Two game loss, big calcutta. Pays three places, 60%, 30% and 10%. Play starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday. 2078-1960, Houston, Texas. For information, call 713-440-8882 and ask for Don, Cory or Bobbie Jo.

Ace of Clubs, Marysville, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 2

Northern California's 5th annual Labor Day shuffleboard tournament will be played at the Ace of Clubs, 328 I Street, Marysville, Calif., on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and 2. Entry fees are \$100 per person for the doubles, \$150 per person for singles, double elimination. On the previous Friday, \$20 round robins all afternoon. The calcutta is scheduled for Friday night. Entry fees and calcuttas pay three places — 60%, 30% and 10%.

The Ace of Clubs, with three boards, is open 24 hours a day. A "big feed" will be on the agenda Sunday. Tournament directors Fred Thumann and Jerry Miller say the best players nationwide will be participating in this Labor Day tourney. Call Sharon or Jerry Miller (916-743-6885) for more information and/or for lodging reservations.

California Action

Eleven teams participated in the doubles during the Memorial Day tournament at the Ace of Clubs in Marysville, Calif. with entry fees of \$2,200 and a calcutta of \$3,905. Winners were: 1st, Don Cox and LeRoy Ledford, Sacramento; 2nd, Jerry Miller, Marysville, and "Lagging" Leon, Sacramento; 3rd, Ron Harralson, San Jose, and Don Mitchel, Portland. In the singles, there were 20 competitors for the \$3,000 entry fees and \$3,950 calcutta. Winners were: Darrol Nelson, Eugene, Oregon, 1st; Loren Maxhum, Oroville, 2nd, and Eric Waldman, Pyru, 3rd.

In The Shelter's (Placencia, Calif.) One Grand Shootout, Billie Chiles and Bill Maxwell took top honors, with Ted Zariphe in 3rd place, Chris Monahan in 4th and Jim Martin in 5th place. (See Letters for explanation of "shootout.")

Central Indiana Action

Bob Voorhis and Deb Somers took top honors in the best 2 of 3 mixed tournament at the Palace Bar, Fairmont, on June 8. Second place went to Tom Vorndran and Val Beer. Hoot and Deb Gipson took third place with Dennis and Nina

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Delaware Shuffleboard "Hot Spot" Directory

These are the hot boards, by city, in the state of Delaware:

Wilmington — Scott's Tavern, 5 N. Union St., phone 302-652-9568, ask for Don Casula or Rocky Rybicki; VFW, 106 7th Ave., phone 302-652-9803, ask for Vinnie Killan or Raymond.

Dover — Wyoming Tavern, 5 N. Railroad Ave., phone 302-697-7978, ask for Bob Johnson or Richard Foracker.

Milford — Kent-Sussex Inn, N.W. Front St., phone 302-422-9975, ask for Steve Bradley or Al Waltman; Milford Tavern, phone 302-422-9945, ask for Doug Anand or Burr; The 200 Bar, phone 302-422-9988, ask for Bill Bradford or Bruce Coulson.

Harrington — Stones Hotel, phone 302-398-3434, ask for Jack Gardner, Eddie Kibler or Roland Cashwell; Oaks Tavern, phone 302-398-8946, ask for Dallas Hayman or Walt Murphy.

Greenwood — Ray's Tavern, phone 302-349-9968, ask for Scratch, Herb Dayton or Earnie.

I really enjoyed your 4th of July tournament. Look forward to seeing you all again.

John Lukas
66 Legion Rd., Millington, Maryland

Editor's Note: We know shuffleboarders will appreciate this listing of Delaware hot spots. Someday, we hope, they will be part of a national directory.

John is our new reporter from that area and we look forward to more contributions from him in future Board Talks. He made many friends at our 4th of July tournament in Michigan with his irresistible grin and empty plate!

Welcome to the Steelhead Tavern!

During the 1985 Memorial Day tournament at the Tolo Tavern, Central Point, Ore., your Oregon representatives, Jolene and Roy Lemke, played in the tournament and Jolene was my partner. She's quite a gal. She put off having a serious operation until she could attend the Tolo tourney. Unfortunately, we were eliminated in the second round.

I'm the owner of the Steelhead Tavern (6401 Rogue River Highway, Grants Pass, Ore.) and this was our second year in the Rogue Valley Shuffleboard League. Both years we've placed second, this year losing first place by only three games. First next year, maybe!

We've had shuffleboard for the 21 years my wife Elma and I have owned the Steelhead. We also have pool, darts and video games. We serve hamburgers, chicken, pizza, snacks, cold beer and wine.

Letters to the Editor

We also serve hospitality and will welcome any of your subscribers on our board.

Jim Hughes, Steelhead Tavern
Grants Pass, Oregon

Editor's Note: Welcome aboard, Jim and Elma. We hope lots of Board Talk subscribers will take advantage of your offer. We, too, think Jolene is "quite a gal" and were disappointed that doctor's orders kept her from our recent tourney.

More on the Handicap System

I was somewhat miffed when I read the guest editorial by Roy Lembke in the June *Board Talk*. Both Roy and Jolene have played in the Saturday tournaments at The Shelter and he should remember that it is run using a handicap system. The major difference is that The Shelter handicapping is done, not by a committee, but based on percentage wins. Better players have a -3 handicap and poorer players have a +3 handicap. An arbitrary profile of 10%, 10%, 15%, 30%, 15%, 10%, 10% distribution is assigned to each handicap -3 through +3. The handicap is recomputed each week and is based only on the Saturday singles, double elimination tournaments. So far, there are over 1,115 games used to establish the handicap. A new player has a 0 handicap.

Twice a year (July and December) there is one grand shootout of the best 16 shooters from the previous half year. First earns three points, 2nd two points, and 3rd one point.

Unfortunately, my tournament was scheduled (in January) for July 6-7, which I now know was in conflict with your tournament. I'm sorry I missed it.

I have been having a running argument with Karl Spickelmier concerning the format of the elimination charts. He insists that he can use an 8, 16, 32 or 64 chart with "first round byes" and obtain an equitable format.

I have developed charts for each number of entrants and built in the byes at various rounds in an effort to equalize the number of games played. Do you know of any literature on the subject?

Best place in the U.S. for shuffleboard action: I read very little news of local league action and would like to nominate all of the Orange County Shuffleboard League bars. There is usually a considerable effort on the part of the bar owners to organize a team.

The Orange County Shuffleboard League runs the weekly matches in a format that is different than the American Shuffleboard League. The major difference is that both player and end of board are determined by pill draw. There are six-person teams and six games are played. Starting at 7 p.m., one match lasted until 11:30! Think what it would have been like for a nine-game match!

Robert Brunskill, The Shelter
909 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, Calif.

Editor's Note: We're sure the many subjects you've opened will bring responses from our readers, Robert. George will respond to a few.

Unless I misunderstood your question with Karl and the elimination charts, there is no such thing as first round byes
(continued on page 8)



Larry Creakbaum of Indiana drew Ron Spalding of Michigan in the draw partner event and captured 2nd place. Joe Kardos of New Jersey and Jerry Hirschman of Michigan took 1st in this event.



The "tough guys" from Michigan, Lee McDonald and J. R. Lopez, earned 1st place trophies in the doubles, an event that attracted 21 teams. Lee also took 3rd in the singles.



Bobby Voorhis of Indiana flashes a victory smile after winning the singles event over a field of 28 other contenders.



Jim Yank congratulates his Philadelphia buddy Anthony Conch (left) for taking 2nd place honors in the singles event. Anthony wasn't one of the favorites going in and bought himself in the calcutta for \$15. His sharp playing in several of the events assure that he isn't likely to go that cheap again.

(Photo by John Lukas)



Happiness is taking a trophy back East, declare Don (Juan) Casula of Delaware and John (Empty Plate) Lukas of Maryland, who took 3rd place in the doubles.



Winners of the women's singles were Cassie Kern (right) of Michigan, 1st place, and Rita Yank, Pennsylvania, 2nd place.



John McDermott of Michigan and Bobby Voorhis of Indiana discuss strategy during the doubles event. It paid off as that winning combo took second place honors.

(Photo by John Lukas)

More Tourney Talk (continued from page 1)

Borgerding in fourth. Total prize money was \$795.

A doubles tourney hosted by the American Bar, Portland, on June 15 was won by Bob Brown and Bobby Brown. Rick Stocker and Gerald Shepherd came in second, Marcia Brown and Curly McNally were third and fourth place finishers were Larry Brown and Mike. Total prize money was \$1,100.



The Northwest team, composed of Lauri Niemi, Coloma Hollister, Sally Sanders, Jolene Lembke (captain), Lois Walter and Evie Wechter, won the women's team event at the Tolo Tavern's Memorial Day tournament (reported in last month's *Board Talk*). Owner Pat Burkhart invites shuffleboarders across the nation, "If you ever get our way, be sure to stop in and play a game or just say hi! We have the friendliest people in the country and a lot of good shuffleboard players." The Tolo Tavern is located at 7878 Blackwell Road, Central Point, Ore.



Lee and Nancy Vachter (front) of Gladstone, Ore., took first place in the Black Cat Sweathogs handicap doubles tourney. In second place were Galen Gaunce and Jody Bashaw of Portland, with Dave and Gail Barnbrook of Oregon in third. The Black Cat's (Portland, Ore.) Sweathogs tourney was held in late April.

Nelson-Allis Team Takes Washington Tourney Honors

Mount St. Helen didn't provide any fireworks display for the 4th of July weekend. All the action was at the Drive Inn Tavern in Spokane where 25 teams participated in a doubles tourney that attracted big name players. Darrol Nelson and Jim Allis took first place honors with Don Mitchell and Gary Singer in second place, and Steve Calamarski and "Dink" in third.

Honey Comb Lounge, Dallas, Features \$10,640 Purse

A tourney held at the Honey Comb Lounge in Dallas, Texas, July 6-7, featured a total purse of \$10,640 and a big outdoor feed. Bill Melton reports that owner Roger Schmitz has to be "the greatest shuffleboard host in the world," feeding the 250 people in attendance at his own expense. Winners of the \$50 draw partner event were: 1st, David Williams, Fort Worth, and Harvey Kidd, Houston; 2nd, Early Kelly and Bob White, Dallas; 3rd, Bill Melton, Davis, Okla., and Ben Alexander, Dallas.

In the \$300 team event, Glen Davidson of Oklahoma City and Bud Hilburn, Tulsa, took first place; Billy Mays and Earl Kelly of Dallas were second, and Harvey Kidd and Lee Brady of Houston were third.

Missed the Deadline

Received too late for promotion in *The Board Talk*: the mixed doubles tourney at the Sports Arena, Houston, Texas, on July 13-14 and The Best of the Rockies 1st Annual Colorado Open Singles at McCoys in Denver. Watch for coverage results in the next issue. Remember: the closing date for each issue is the 20th of the month. The earlier we receive your tournament notices, the better promotion we can give.

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Few Losers in Board Talk's Tourney (continued from page 5)

beans to fly back to Indiana without his plane), and, of course, our congenial hosts, Nick and Harry Kovanis (who with their fine crew kept us well nourished throughout the tourney and even had a cake decorated especially for this first).

The organizers are not among the survivors but before we fade away into the sunset, we must acknowledge the contributions of so many friends to the success of the tournament:

Tournament Officials & Hostesses

Mary Lisle
John McDermott
Jamie Hoffman
Gerald Siebert
Mick Montgomery
Woodie Cockrum
Bobby Voorhis
Roy Stein
Lee McDonald
Ron & Kandi Spalding
Cheryl & Gordy Collins
Bob Bonneville
Cathy Kirvan

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Howell Big Boy, Howell, Mich.
The Board Talk, Lansing, Mich.



For organizers George and Donna Wilber, *The Board Talk's* first national tournament was a character-building experience.
(Photo by John Lukas)

The Hammer (continued from page 1)

willingness of Mary Lisle and Jamie Hoffman to take over the registration desk during Donna's doctor-ordered rest periods; thanks to the volunteer efforts of hostesses and officials in conducting a friendly, professional, smooth-running tournament; thanks to the hard work and hospitality of the Log Cabin crew in their first-time efforts as shuffleboard tourney hosts, we pulled it off.

We're glad we did and we look forward to the 2nd annual *Board Talk* national tournament. They say you have to crawl before you walk and walk before you run. Thanks to you who helped get us through that crucial first stage. We'll remember you when we're running!

George and Donna Wilber, Publishers

Board Talk Tourney Participants Benefit From Shuffleboard Supporter Contributions

Coolers, picnic baskets, Thermos bottles, mini-vacs, lawn chairs, subscriptions to *The Board Talk*... These were among the door prizes won by participants in *The Board Talk's* 1st annual national tournament, thanks to the generosity of the contributing sponsors listed above. These businesses also provided financial contributions for the many trophies awarded during the four-day tournament.

Winners of the door prizes were:

Mary Lisle, Michigan
Cass Grubbs, Michigan
James Yank, Pennsylvania
Ivan Good, Michigan
Rita Yank, Pennsylvania
Don Casula, Delaware
Larry Creakbaum, Indiana
Cheryl Collins, Michigan
Marie Sweeney, Michigan
Bobby Voorhis, Indiana
Martha Voorhis, Indiana
Harry Brimm, Michigan
Shirley Harris, Ohio
Mary Dent, Michigan



Al Stewart (left) of A & M Amusement Service, El Monte, Calif. (shown here with Editor George Wilber and Blue Dancer), was one of the contributing sponsors to *The Board Talk's* 1st annual national tournament.

Few Losers in Board Talk's Tourney

The Log Cabin Bar in Howell, Mich., with its private room and patio reserved exclusively for shuffleboarders and their fans, provided the setting for *The Board Talk's* 1st Annual National Tournament, July 4-7, 1985. It was the scene of not only several events packed with excitement for players and spectators alike, but also of friendly interaction between shuffleboard enthusiasts from several states.



The opening Draw Your Partner event was the beginning of that friendly interaction. Planned as a kind of limited-participation, get-acquainted mixer by tourney organizers, this event ended up with 38 players (19 teams) competing and running overtime into the next day. It threw the schedule off but it did accomplish its purpose. Players from the participating states did, indeed, get acquainted and got an idea of what their competition might be in subsequent events. (Some were seen making notes in little red — or was it green — notebooks for future reference.)

Winners of that event were: 1st, Joe Kardos, New Jersey, and Jerry Hirschman of Michigan; 2nd, Larry Creakbaum of Indiana and Ron Spalding of Michigan; 3rd, Paul Casula of Missouri and O.B. Brimm of Michigan.

In the doubles event, players went in with partners of their choice and were, in many cases, winning combos from past tournaments. However, pitting their strengths against players from other states with different techniques and strategies provided some challenges.

By this time, calcutta bidders had picked their favorites and were pretty close to target. An investment in Lee McDonald and J.R. Lopez of Michigan proved a good one as that home-state duo captured 1st place honors. So did a bid on the powerhouse team of John McDermott, Michigan, and Bobbie Voorhis, Indiana, who came in 2nd.

What was a bit of a surprise was that Eastern team of Don Casula, Delaware, and John Lukas, Maryland, 3rd place winners, who earned enough of the pot to pay for their beer during the four-day tourney.

"We've got to have something for the women; they always get left out," said *Board Talk* Editor George Wilber as the tournament schedule was planned. "But, honey, women shuffleboarders are liberated; they don't need to be segregated," responded *Board Talk* Editor Donna Wilber. He won and a women's doubles was placed on the agenda. Only trouble was, an uneven number signed up so it ended up being a singles. The limited field of contenders were fierce competitors, with Cassie Kern of Michigan taking top honors and Rita Yank taking the 2nd place trophy back to Pennsylvania.

By scratching the four-person team event, which by this time nobody could afford the \$400 to enter, we're back on

schedule and it's time for the singles. The singles, with 29 entries and the biggest pot to date, provided a range from what was expected to the totally unexpected.

The highest bid player did come in first, but one of the lowest calcutta purchases came in second. That had some calcutta bidders crying but the Pennsylvania delegation laughing all the way to the Howell Holiday Inn to celebrate in grand style!

When top contenders John McDermott and J. R. Lopez of Michigan and Larry Creakbaum of Indiana got knocked off in the double elimination action, it put Lee McDonald of Michigan and Anthony Conch in a head to head match, with Anthony the victor. But Anthony couldn't beat the determined Bobby "V" (is that V for Victory or Voorhis?), the conqueror.

The script writer for this award-winning play said, "Let's have stars from different states," so we had: Indiana's Bobby Voorhis, 1st; Pennsylvania's Anthony Conch, 2nd; and Michigan's Lee McDonald, 3rd.

It's Sunday (are you sure we haven't been here for two weeks instead of four days?) and the players, officials, hostesses and organizers are suffering from burnout. But here comes a fresh crew from Ohio and the schedule says it's time for the four-person mixed event. Mixed means having at least one of the four people on your team of the opposite sex.



Missouri shuffleboarders Paul Casula (left), who took 3rd place with O. B. Brimm of Michigan in the draw partner event, and Woodie Cockrum, *Board Talk* reporter, take a break in the action. Woodie and his sister, Oregon reporter Jolene Lemke, presented a mini-shuffleboard to the Log Cabin Bar for being the site of the very first *Board Talk* national tournament.

Participants were a bit wary of this event and its unfamiliar format. But it ended up a fun time, win or lose.

The Board Talk's faithful and talented tournament co-director, John McDermott, and his teammates, Bobby Voorhis of Indiana, and Gordy and Cheryl Collins of Michigan, showed their stuff in this event to take top honors. In second place was the team who should be designated as official goodwill ambassadors for the state of Pennsylvania: Jim and Rita Yank, Anthony Conch and Ron Ness. The fifth person from the Pa. delegation, John Herrmann (2 r's, 2 n's) teamed up with three Michigan women (Mary Lisle, Jamie Hoffman and Jenine Amon) to form a Log Cabin-sponsored team and gave them a run for their money.

By this time, there are few survivors from this long weekend. There's Larry Creakbaum from Indiana (who thinks we ought to have the 2nd annual *Board Talk* tourney at the Log Cabin again and who evidently ate enough baked

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A Salute to Board Talk Tournament Co-Sponsors

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And More Letters

(continued from page 2)

when there are 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, etc. Any other number of teams, there must be byes. We use the official book of the Amateur Softball Association of America to run our tournaments and it works very effectively. It seems to me you would have better luck using a round robin format instead of the elimination chart because you're not actually eliminating anyone in your tournament (I think).

My hat's off to you and whomever is helping to keep a weekly running total of individual percentages and handicapping each player — great job! I'm thinking of starting something similar in my area except I'll probably make it a partners event and go by points scored instead of wins and losses. For instance, if my partner and I beat you and your partner, 21-15, we would get our 21 points and you would get your 15 and keep a running total as future games are played.

We play six person, nine game matches in our 24 team league, start at 7 p.m. and always finish by 10 to 10:30. Could it be because we play 15 points and you play 21?

We're sorry you couldn't participate in our tournament, too, Robert (would have been nice to have some representation from the West). With as many tournaments going on every weekend throughout the nation, there will probably always be scheduling conflicts. However, we hope people will start using *The Board Talk* as a kind of "clearing house" so it doesn't happen so often, at least for the big tournaments. Promoting in advance sure would help.

Recognition for Table Shuffleboard — Will It Ever Come?

Thanks to the state of Nebraska for reporter Denny Busch! Now we know where to go to play a good game of shuffleboard in that state.

I have been researching in libraries looking for the history, illustrations of the sport, rules and care of the equipment, for our game of shuffleboard. I have found good information, especially by Omero C. Caton, about "concrete" shuffleboard but even in the *Encyclopedia of All the Sports of the World*, there is nothing about our favorite game.

Publication of a book with the history of our game, with updated rules and illustrations of the game, is needed.

Evie Wechter, Oregon Reporter

Editor's Note: We feel the same way as you do about Denny Busch. It's one more step toward our dream of a truly national shuffleboard network. Evie, at her own expense, had duplicated her personal copy of The Board Talk, for which she pays \$10 a year, to spread the word about this communications vehicle for shuffleboarders. We appreciate that. Sharing is the key word to the future success of not only this publication but the sport itself. But duplication of your copy, Evie, is going beyond the call of duty. Under our new mailing permit, we must have uniform weight for each mailing, which means one copy per subscriber. However, we always have a limited number of extra copies after mailing and we're glad to send multiple copies, via a different method of mailing, to those who request them for that purpose.

When I first told my co-workers at my office that I was going to watch my husband play shuffleboard, their reaction was: "But George isn't THAT old!" They assumed that shuffleboard was the "concrete" game played mostly by senior citizens in the parks of our city. Table shuffleboard does indeed have a recognition problem.

In a previous issue of *The Board Talk* we printed a piece on the history of shuffleboard which came from the American Shuffleboard Company. We suggest that you pass along your concerns for a book on the game (and inclusion in the *Encyclopedia of All Sports*) to the American Shuffleboard Company, Union City, New Jersey.

Frisco Eddie's Revenge

A Short Story by Balboa Ron
Las Vegas, Nevada

Frisco Eddie walked into the rear door of the Blue Moon Lounge on a clear and sparkling Sunday morning. He selected a bar stool which would afford the best chance to catch all the shuffleboard action.

(Man, they're all here — Two-Hanger Fred, Texas Kid, Big Al, Oklahoma Jack... Must have been playing all night, Eddie surmised.) "What'll you have, Eddie?" asked Mike, the bartender. "Coffee for now," Eddie replied.

"Hey, Frisco!" shouted Big Al, "You want to get in on the action?" (All the hustlers laughed a little because they had taken Eddie so many times.) The \$500 bankroll Eddie had stashed in his Levis began to turn.

"I'm in. What's the game, suckers?" said Eddie. "Me and Texas Kid have the board. Want to walk it?" was the reply. "I'm not glued to this seat, man. Let's go," said Eddie. (This is my chance to get those high-rollers, he thought.)

After a few practice shots, the board was freshly waxed and the quarters put in. The game was underway. Eddie lost the toss. (The sideline responded with muffled snickers. They were all splitting the action against Eddie — a \$500 spread.)

The game began with Eddie having some trouble sticking on the deep left and right cross shots against Big Al. (I've got to settle down some, Eddie thought.) At the end of the fourth frame, he was down 9 to 6; Texas Kid's lag was working. The knowing looks on the sideline indicated the predictable — Eddie would lose. Big Al and Texas Kid were methodically working him over.

By the end of the eighth frame, Eddie continued to trail. The score was 14 to 11. (This is it, thought Eddie, now or never.) He passed a short weight that Big Al had put up. Al stuck. Eddie tried the combination shot — no luck. Big Al set up a deep left thumb shot — a duece. It was then Eddie's last shot.

Everyone knew it was over now. They had beat him again. Eddie sized up the board; everything was blocked except the left hand. (This is the time now, man — I'm going to do it!) Eddie waxed the fingers of his left hand for the "Jersey Lag," sprinkled a small amount of wax on the left rail, and made his shot.

The release felt good; the weight was on track. (Jeez, it looks good, Eddie thought.) Two-Hanger and the rest of the hustlers started to get nervous as the weight sailed down the board. "Oh, my God! He's going to... he did! He lagged a..." Then came a voice:

"Hey, Eddie! You've been sitting on that bar stool staring at that damn shuffleboard for 20 minutes now," hollered Mike, the bartender. "Quit daydreaming and let's get going and clean this joint up before the Sunday afternoon tournament." Then Mike assured Eddie, "Don't worry, kid. Keep on practicing and we'll put you on the team next fall — maybe."

The sun was still shining brightly outside the Blue Moon Lounge as Eddie went to the back room to get his mop and pail. "Someday," Eddie thought, "someday..."