

At the Table

The Incomparable "St. Louie" Louis Roberts



"..... and playing on table two, the incomparable "St. Louie - Louie" Louis Roberts."

That was how Harold Simonsen, cast as the tournament director in the much publicized film, *The Color of Money*, introduced Louis Roberts in a key scene. Roberts loved the "plug" - "When the film is released it will help me get exhibitions."

Not really a plug though, for Louis Roberts was indeed a hit during the two weeks he spent in Chicago as a professional pool player in the tournament scene. Hundreds of extras were hired to sit for long hours as spectators for the scene. Boredom could have easily set in for these folks who hadn't come to see pool, but had come for a glimpse of Paul Newman or his young co-star Tom Cruise. Not with Roberts on stage though. His entertaining showmanship at the table between takes kept the audience amused and clamoring for more. Louis Roberts single handedly created quite a few new pool fans in Chicago.

The new Louis Roberts, attempting to make a come back in pool, is confident and personable. "I feel good, real good. A lot of the credit belongs to Julia." Roberts was speaking of his fiance, a carpet store owner from Memphis, Tennessee who is pushing him to get his life together. His earlier bout with alcoholism landed him a six week stay in a Tennessee V.A. Hospital at Julia's insistence. "It was good for me, I know I can't drink, not a drop, ever. It affects me differently than other people. They say I have

a self abusive personality. Other people can drink one beer. I have to drink twenty. That's all over now though."

As further proof of Robert's new commitment to pool, he made a great showing at the recent 9-Ball Classic Cup V in Aurora, Illinois. "St. Louie-Louie" danced his way through a top field of 86 players in the winners bracket by beating Akron's Joe Kerr, Iowa's "Highway" Paul Baker, and getting a standing ovation in his victory of Miller Lite's Steve Mizerak. Top ranked professional Mizerak said after the match, "I have no excuse, you just can't do much when someone shoots that good against you!"

It took the eventual winner of the event to knock Roberts into the losers bracket as his first defeat was handed to him by Jose Parica. Now playing in the losers's bracket, Roberts gave the crowd one of the most exciting matches of the event. Buddy "Rifleman" Hall from Tampa, Florida vs. St. Louie - Louis Roberts. Hall was on the hill with a 10-7 edge over Roberts in the race to 11 session. The incomparable "St. Louie-Louie" put together 4 straight games to outdistance the surprised Hall.

Roberts made it all the way to the 7th place tie position before he was finally eliminated. A fine showing for his comeback debut.

Watching any sport figure competing in an event for a comeback is always exciting, watching "St. Louie" Louis Roberts is an event in itself.▲