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M. E. YARAUS

INDOOR PARLOR MINIATURE FOOTBALL GAME

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Fig. 1.

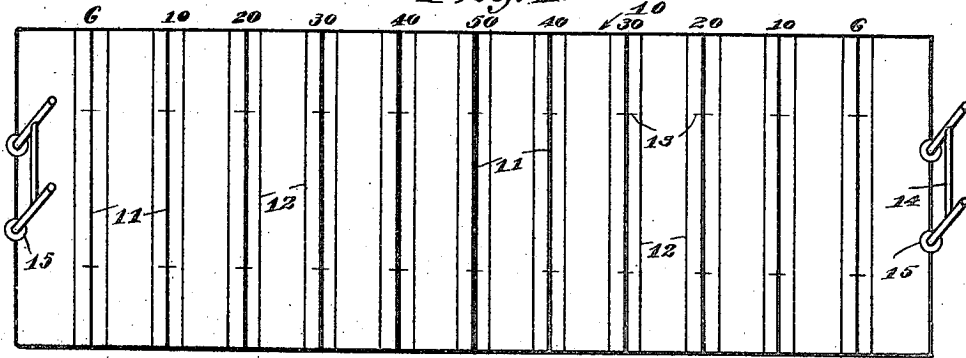


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

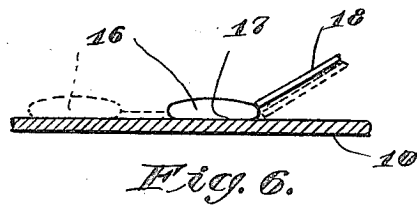
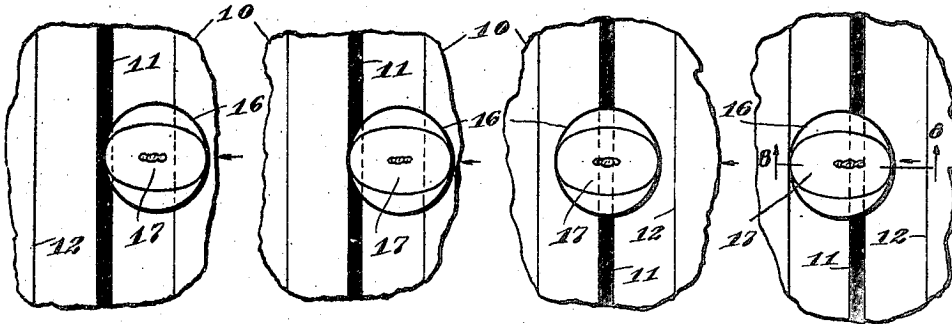


Fig. 6.

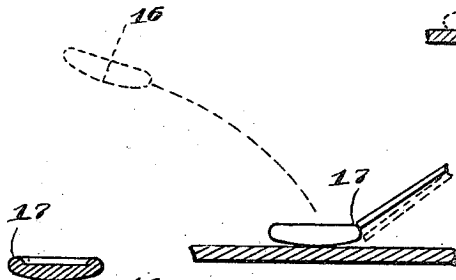


Fig. 8.

Fig. 7.

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INDOOR PARLOR MINIATURE FOOTBALL GAME.

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My present invention relates to games, and more particularly to an indoor football game.

Formerly games of this class have to a great extent been dependant upon the element of chance. I have endeavored to invent a game that will hold the interest of the participants and onlookers because of the great degree of skill necessary to successfully play the game. Although a miniature of the popular sport known as football, this game is played for the most part according to the rules of the outdoor game, with such necessary changes incorporated to meet the exigencies of the particular situations which arise in this game and may or may not exist in the outdoor game.

The principal object of my invention therefore, is an improved indoor football game in which skill is the predominating element.

Other objects and novel features of the construction and arrangement of parts constituting my invention will appear as the description of the invention progresses.

In the accompanying drawing illustrating the preferred form of my invention,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a miniature football field;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged section of one of the ten-yard lines showing the completion of a successful first down;

Fig. 3 is similar to Fig. 2, but showing the ball slightly over the line resulting in loss of the ball to the opposing team;

Fig. 4 is also similar to Fig. 2 showing a successful forward pass;

Fig. 5 similar to Fig. 4, showing an unsuccessful forward pass;

Fig. 6 shows the method of using the ball for rushing or forward-passing;

Fig. 7 shows the method of using the ball for a kick-off, kicking a field goal or punting, and

Fig. 8 is a cross section taken on line 8, 8 of Fig. 5.

Referring to the drawing, and particularly to Fig. 1, 10 designates a flat board of suitable material upon which is printed or otherwise indicated a miniature football field corresponding with the regular gridiron with the exception, that, in this game, only the ten-yard lines are shown as indicated at 11, with thinner lines 12 to each side of the ten-yard lines 11, to denote what is called the "forward-pass zone". It will be observed that

the ten-yard lines 11 are of varying width. The center line or the fifty-yard line is the heaviest, with the thickness of the other lines diminishing so that the goal lines indicated by the letters G are the thinnest. These lines are so constructed because when the ball is being advanced by the "rusher", the rules provide that he must not allow any portion of the ball to go beyond the ten-yard line that he is attempting to gain.

At right angles to the ten-yard lines 11, are short lines 13 bisecting the ten-yard lines 11, provided for the purpose of enabling the players to place the ball in play after it has been kicked or "rushed" out of bounds. At 14, I have provided miniature goal posts designed with feet 15, comprising thin flat disks adapted to hold the posts in an upright position. The goal posts are located at a position corresponding to ten yards to the rear of each goal line G.

At 16, I have indicated a football in the shape of a disk upon which is printed or otherwise indicated the conventional outline of a football as used in an outdoor contest. One side of the ball 16 is convexed as illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8, the opposite side of which is depressed in the central portion and further provided with rounded rim 17 adapted to lie flat upon the board 10. The purpose of the design and shape of the ball will be further described in the description of the operation of the game.

At 18, I have provided a stylus adapted to be held between the fingers of the players for the purpose of advancing the ball either by "rushes", "punts" or "kick-off" also further described in the following description of operation.

In operation, the field or board 10, is placed upon a table or other flat surface, and the opposing teams or players, comprising two in number, sit at opposite ends of the field, each player being furnished with a stylus 18, to be used in manipulating the ball. A coin may be tossed to determine which player shall elect to kick or receive the ball. The winner of the toss having made his choice, the opposing player places the ball on his own forty yard line with the convexed side of the ball underneath. He then places the stylus against the inside edge of the rim 17 and by exerting pressure upon the ball and gradually sliding the stylus away from the ball until it slides over the edge or rim

17 and down on to the board or field 10, causing the ball to jump into the air and away toward the opponents side of the field. At that point, the receiving team takes the ball, but before "rushing" it, turns it so that the convex side is uppermost. The rushing team now must advance the ball to a point exactly on one of the ten-yard lines as indicated in Fig. 2 but not less than ten yards. He is given four attempts or "downs" and should the ball go over or fail to reach the particular ten-yard line which he is attempting to make, he loses the ball to the opposing player. During this part of the play, the forward edge of the ball is the determining point with respect to the ten-yard line as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawing. The opponent may now "kick" or return the ball to the first player by reversing it so that the convex side is down and "kicking", in the same manner as previously described, as far as he is able. Then his opponent takes the ball and attempts to work it down the field. A player may try a "forward pass" by specifically announcing the zone which he is attempting to gain, and should the ball fail to place exactly within the zone, it shall result in the loss of the "down".

In Fig. 4, I have indicated a successful "forward pass" due to the fact that the ball has stopped within the zone lines 12 while at Fig. 5 the ball has protruded beyond the zone lines 12 and is therefore unsuccessful. When the ball is being advanced with the convex side uppermost, the action of the stylus on the rounded edge of the ball moves the ball along the field without jumping it as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 6; but if the ball is being "kicked" or "punted" the convex side is turned under and the ball jumps into the air on an arc as shown in Fig. 7.

It will readily be seen that the distance which the ball travels will depend on the skill of the player in manipulating the stylus in connection with the ball, and herein I have devised a unique feature, and while I have described my invention somewhat in detail, it is to be understood that I may vary the size, shape and arrangement of parts constituting my invention within wide limits

without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, is:—

1. An improved indoor football game comprising a football gridiron, said gridiron marked off in yard lines, said yard lines provided with parallel zone lines, a ball composed of a disk, said disk convexed on one side and concaved on the other side, a stylus adapted to move the ball horizontally along the said gridiron when brought in contact with the convexed edge of said ball and to raise the ball in an arc when contacted with the concaved side of said ball, portable goal posts adapted to be erected at each end of said gridiron.

2. In an indoor football game, a gridiron divided into several zones by means of lines of varying thickness extending across the gridiron at ninety degrees to the long side of said gridiron, sub-zone lines paralleling and adjacent to said heavy main zone lines.

3. An improved indoor football game comprising in combination, a gridiron composed of several main zone lines of an increasing thickness toward the center of the said gridiron corresponding to the fifty-yard line of a regulation gridiron, a ball composed of a disk concaved on one side and convexed on the other side, a prime mover adapted to either raise said ball on an arc in the air or move it horizontally along the gridiron, goal posts adapted to be erected at either end of said gridiron.

4. An improved football base marked off in yard lines of varying thickness, a football constructed in the form of a disk having one side concaved and the other side convexed with a half-round circumference, a prime mover adapted to operate said disk horizontally along the base of said game when the ball presents its convexed surface uppermost and to lift said ball from said base in varying degrees of an arc when said ball presents its concaved surface uppermost, goal posts movably located on said base and adjacent its ends thereof.

In witness whereof, I subscribe my name this 16th day of February, 1928.

MORRIS EDWARD YARAUS.