Dec. 2, 1952 F. J. MALAGIO 2,620,188

RESILIENT BAG SUPPORT

Filed April 5, 1950 2 SHEETS--SHEET 1

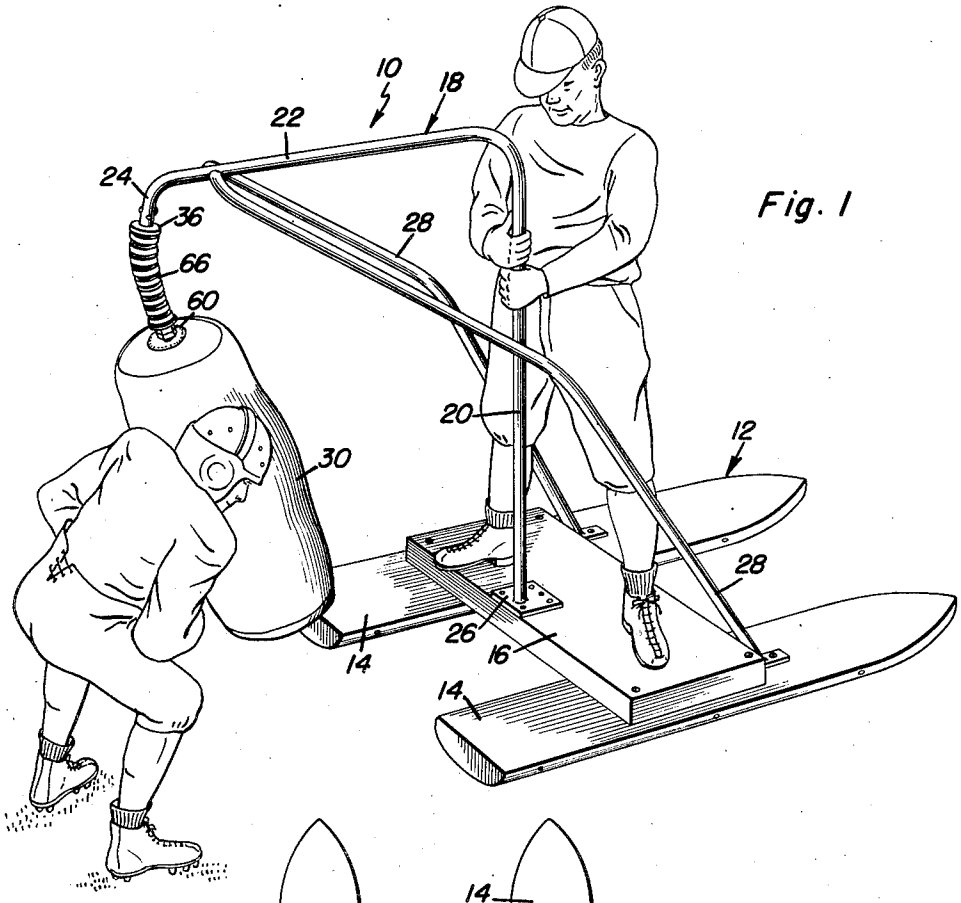


Fig. 1

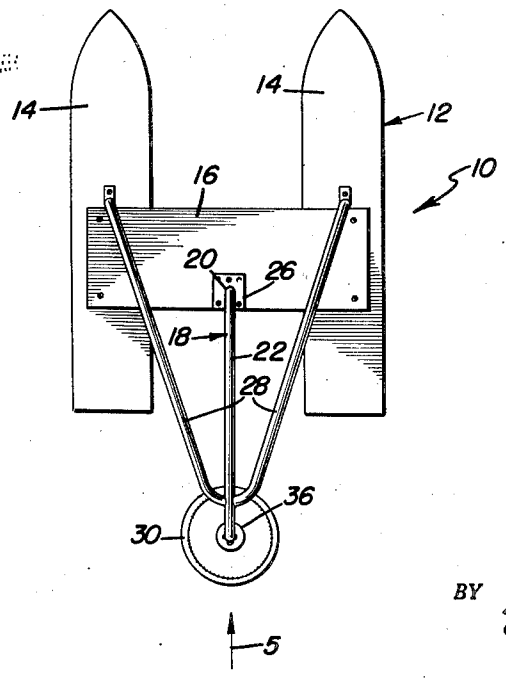


Fig. 3

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RESILIENT BAG SUPPORT

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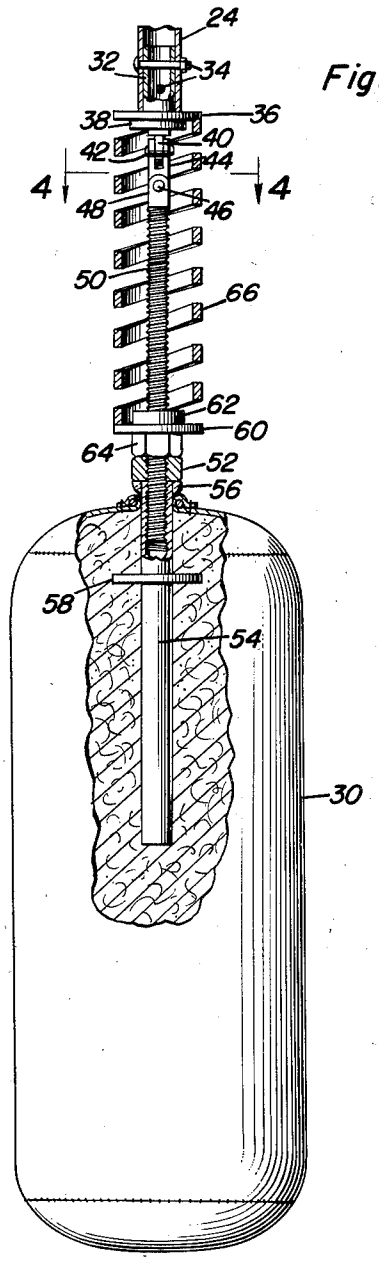


Fig. 2

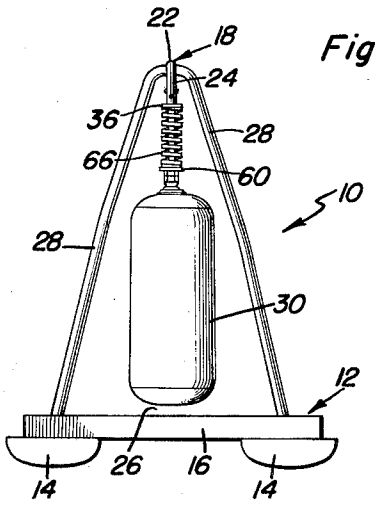


Fig. 5

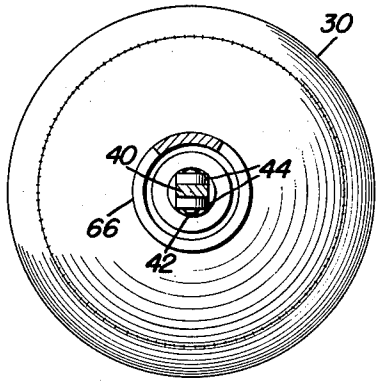


Fig. 4

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RESILIENT BAG SUPPORT

Fred J. Malagio, Akron, Ohio

Application April 5, 1950, Serial No. 154,058

3 Claims. (Cl. 273—55)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements and structural refinements in exercising apparatus for football players, and the principal object of the invention is to facilitate convenient, expeditious and efficient teaching or instruction of football players in proper technique of blocking and tackling used in a football game.

The above object is achieved by the provision of a padded, elongated bag which is suspended by resiliently controlled universal means from a supporting standard, an important feature of the invention residing in the structural arrangement of the standard which is such that it does not interfere with a trainee's movement as the latter contacts the bag.

Another feature of the invention lies in the structural arrangement of the resiliently controlled universal suspension means for the bag which, when contacted by the trainee, resembles as closely as possible the actual reaction which a player encounters when contacting an opponent in an actual game.

Some of the advantages of the invention reside in its simplicity of construction, in its efficient and safe operation, in its pleasing appearance, and in its adaptability to economical manufacture.

With the above more important objects and features in view and such other objects and features as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the invention consists essentially of the arrangement and construction of parts as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention in use,

Figure 2 is a top plan view thereof,

Figure 3 is a fragmentary sectional detail of the bag and its suspension means,

Figure 4 is a fragmentary sectional view, taken substantially in the plane of the line 4—4 in Figure 3, and

Figure 5 is an elevational view of the invention, this view being taken in the direction of the arrow 5 in Figure 3.

Like characters of reference are employed to designate like parts in the specification and throughout the several views.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings in detail, the invention consists of an exercising apparatus for football players, this being designated generally by the reference character 10 and embodying in its construction a suitable base 12 such as may consist of spaced side members or skids 14 rigidly secured together by a cross member 16 constituting a coaching platform or stand. When the invention is in use, this base is stationary on the ground.

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A standard designated generally by the reference character 18 is mounted on the base 12, this standard assuming the form of a tube having an upright portion 20, a substantially horizontal portion 22 at the upper end of the upright portion 20, and a down turned portion or neck 24 at the outer end of the horizontal portion 22, as is best shown in Figure 1. The lower end of the upright portion 20 is provided with a flange 26 whereby it is rigidly secured to the cross member 16 of the base 12, and if desired, a pair of convergent braces 28 may extend from the side members 14 of the base 12 to the horizontal portion 22 of the standard 18, substantially as shown.

An elongated bag 30, padded with mohair, or the like, is suspended from the neck 24 of the standard 18 by resiliently controlled universal means, this being presently described.

A tubular or cylindrical adapter 32 is secured in the tubular neck 24 of the standard 18 by transversely extending fastening elements 34 (see Figure 2) the adapter 32 projecting downwardly from the neck and affording what may be called a stationary spring seat comprising a circular flange 36 and a circular shoulder 38 under the flange. Moreover, the adapter 32 includes a flat tongue 40 which projects downwardly from the shoulder 38 and is pivotally connected by means of a transverse pin 42 to a forked upper end portion of a universal joint member 44.

The lower end portion of the latter, in turn, is pivotally connected by a transverse pin 46 to a tongue 48 provided at the upper end of a screw threaded shaft 50, which shaft operatively engages a nut 52 secured to the upper end of a tube 54.

The nut 52 may be welded to the tube 54 as indicated at 56, and almost the entire length of the tube is disposed axially within the aforementioned bag 30, there being provided a flange or disc 58 intermediate the ends of the tube 54 so as to discourage any longitudinal shifting of the tube in the bag.

The tube 54 accommodates the lower end portion of the shaft 50, while an adjustable spring seat is positioned on the shaft above the bag and comprises a flange 60 having a shoulder 62 thereon, as is best illustrated in Figure 2. A lock nut 64 is positioned on the shaft 50 between the flange 60 and the nut 52, while a suitable compression spring 66 is interposed between the flanges 36, 60, whereby to urge the

shaft **50** and the longitudinal axis of the bag **30** in substantial vertical alignment with the axis of the adapter **32** in the neck **24**.

It is to be noted that the pin **42** is disposed at right angles to the pin **46** so that what may be called a universal connection between the shaft **50** and the adapter **32** is achieved, this permitting the bag **30** to swing in any direction when it is contacted by a trainee, as exemplified in Figure 1. However, the action of the coil spring **66** is such as to urge the bag **30** to return to its normal position, thus effectively simulating the reaction which a player receives upon contact with an opponent in an actual game.

The resiliency of the spring **66** may be adjusted by simply rotating the nut **64**, and after an appropriate adjustment has been made, the bag **30** together with the tube **54** and the nut **52** may be rotated on the shaft **50**, so that the nut **52** abuts the nut **64** to provide a locking effect.

It is to be observed that by virtue of the construction of the standard **18** and by virtue of the arrangement of the braces **28**, swinging of the bag **30** is facilitated without obstructing or otherwise hindering the movements of the trainee.

It is believed that the advantages and use of the invention will be clearly understood from the foregoing disclosure and accordingly, further description thereof at this point is deemed unnecessary.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of this invention, it is to be understood that minor changes in the details and construction of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A football dummy comprising a support, an adapter secured in said support and projecting downwardly therefrom to provide a stationary spring seat and a tongue below the spring seat, a universal coupling member pivoted to said tongue, a screw threaded shaft connected to said coupling member, an adjustable spring seat provided on said shaft, a compression spring interposed between said spring seats, and an elongated bag mounted on the lower end portion of said shaft.

2. A football dummy comprising a support, an adapter secured in said support and projecting downwardly therefrom to provide a stationary spring seat and a tongue below the spring seat, a universal coupling member pivoted to said tongue, a screw threaded shaft connected to said coupling member, an adjustable spring seat provided on said shaft, a compression spring interposed between said spring seats, and an elongated bag mounted on the lower end portion of said shaft together with a tube secured in a longitudinally extending position in said bag, and a nut rigidly secured to said tube, said shaft extending into said tube and operatively engaging said nut.

3. A football dummy comprising a support, an adapter secured in said support and projecting downwardly therefrom to provide a stationary spring seat and a tongue below the spring seat, a universal coupling member pivoted to said tongue, a screw threaded shaft connected to said coupling member, an adjustable spring seat provided on said shaft, a compression spring interposed between said spring seats, and an elongated bag mounted on the lower end portion of said shaft together with a lock nut on said shaft for sustaining said adjustable spring seat in a preadjusted position.

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