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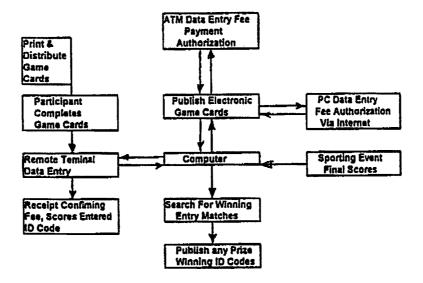
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(57) Abstract

A weekly or other regularly scheduled game of chance is conducted in conjunction with a series of seasonal sporting events, such as baseball, football, hockey, U.S. and international basketball and volleyball games, in which a number of specific games are identified on a printed or electronic game card, and the participant marks the game card with the predicted total of points scored by both teams for each of the identified sporting events, which can include one or more alternate events. Data related to predicted scores and the fee paid are entered into a programmed central computer system for eventual processing and matching with data entered for the actual scores when the identified games are completed to identify the winners. The participant receives a receipt and unique transaction code. Participant data entry and payment means can include third–party ATMs and cash machines, and third–party vendors and "participants" PCs connected to the central computer via the Internet, with payment made through the participant's credit or debit accounts. In an alternative embodiment, predictions can include the actual number of points scored during subsets of the contests.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 G07C15/00 A63F A63F3/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G07C A63F G07F IPC 6 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-5, X US 4 108 361 A (KRAUSE STEPHEN R) 7-20,2422 August 1978 see abstract; figures 1,1A,9,11 see column 1, line 65 - column 3, line 47 see column 4, line 18 - line 53 see column 7, line 1 - column 8, line 47 6,21,25 22,23 Α 19,20,24 GB 2 262 635 A (TOTE DIRECT LIMITED) X 23 June 1993 see abstract; figures 1,2 see page 1, paragraph 5 - page 3, paragraph 1 see page 4, paragraph 2 - page 5, paragraph 3 see page 6, line 9 - page 7, paragraph 5 21 Α χ Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. ° Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 27/04/1999 9 April 1999 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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