

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOOTBALL GAME BOARD

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This invention relates to game boards, having reference, more particularly, to apparatus of this character peculiarly adapted to effectively follow the play of a football game, the same being advantageous in combined use with spinner mechanism, such as set forth in Patent No. 1,731,959, issued to me October 15th, 1929, or as might be desirable, in conjunction with the returns as broadcast from a radio.

The object of the invention, generally, is the provision, in apparatus of the character described, of means wherein novel accommodations are made for the following, in minute detail, of the intricate plays of a football game, such being contained in combination with the board, proper, in a manner to safeguard an operator's loss thereof by dislocation.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will, it is believed, become apparent in the following description, the invention consisting in the novel construction, adaptation and combination of associated parts as hereinafter described and set forth in the claims annexed thereto.

In the drawing,—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of apparatus embodying the present invention, the track or key ways carried thereby being shown in broken lines. Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section to an enlarged scale through lines 2—2 thereof; and Fig. 3 is a side elevation to a portion of the same, having particular reference to the retention means afforded in and for a yardage marker.

Reference being had thereto, the numeral 5 represents, generally, the board proper, which, as illustrated, comprises a horizontally disposed bottom 6 desirably rabbeted as at 7, in a manner to suitably effect the securement of longitudinally disposed side walls 8, 9.

Said side walls are adaptably grooved co-extensive of the length of the respective op-

posing faces to provide channels 10 whereby the same are adaptable to the reception, for tracking engagement therein, of sliding tenon members 11, 12, integrally secured, one to the other, as by a bar 13, said bar being hereinafter referred to as a scrimmage marker, in simulating the commonly termed "line of scrimmage" in practice said bar having loosely mounted for transverse sliding movement thereon, a cannulated ring, or field marker 23.

I illustrate, allocated to the outer exposed face of said side wall 8, a slot 14, adaptable to the reception therein of the struck-in lip 15 of a calibrated sliding shoe member 16, hereinafter referred to as a yardage marker, in similitude to the analogous chained "side sticks" utilized in the setting off of a yardage requisite. As is believed clear, the overhanging guard 17 of said slide and the associated depending leg 18, in conjunction with the lip portion 15, will retain the aforesaid marker against removal.

Containing walls 19, secured to opposite ends of the structure, effectively secure said scrimmage and yardage markers against dislodgement from the respective channels and slot of the board.

In Fig. 1, I illustrate conventional field markings in following the game, comprising spaced-apart numerically impressed yardage lines 20 intersected progressively transversely by field lines 21, the latter of which, for convenience, being set forth by indicating letters, such as A, B, C, etc. Such aforesaid lines may be formed by a direct printing to the bottom 6 of the board, or as shown in Fig. 2, provided through the medium of an adhesively coated insert 22.

In operation, assuming a spinner in use and the field to be in such arrangement as set forth in Fig. 1, wherein the offensive team has possession of the ball on their own 32½ yard line, being the culmination of a succession of plays, the yardage marker 16 would indicate a gain of the required ten yards, after

which offensive player moves such marker forward to have the same project to the 42½ yard line. A series of two or three plays may fail to gain such objective, as set forth by scrimmage marker 13, whereat offensive player may elect to pass or punt as the case may be. A pass as set forth by the spinner, say to 43 yards E, would position the play at that point, and indicate yardage.

The application of the game is believed evident without further operative description, all of said markers, namely yardage, scrimmage and field, being readily and quickly movable in carrying forward the game. Periods of play may be set in conformity to actual game rules, or as desired.

While I have set forth herein what is now the preferred embodiment of the invention, I do not wish to be taken as confining myself thereto except as limited by the scope of the claims hereto appended.

What I claim, is:—

1. In a football game board having a calibrated floor rabbeted to side and end members to form a secure engagement therebetween, of means carried by said walls for indicating the progression of play with respect to said calibrations, said means comprising the following cooperative elements: a pair of tenon members mounted for sliding movement in channels disposed in opposing faces of said side walls, and having an interposed scrimmage marker integrally secured thereto, a field marker mounted on said scrimmage marker for movement independently and collectively therewith, and a graduated yardage marker arranged for sleeved engagement as a corner iron over one of said side bars, said board having means cooperating with said side members to retain said indicating means against dislodgment from said side members.

2. In a football game-board, a calibrated floor having side and end members secured thereto, said side members having channels grooved co-extensive of the length of opposing faces for the reception therein of cooperatively secured sliding tenons, and a slot disposed in the outer face of one of said side walls adapted to receive the struck-in stud of a graduated corner iron sleeved for sliding engagement over said side wall.

3. In apparatus as described in claim 2, wherein said end members are adapted to seal the exposed extremities of the grooved channels and slot of said side members to retain said slides against dislodgment from said grooves.

4. In a football game board having a calibrated floor and side and end walls secured thereto, of indicating means for said board, said means consisting in a marker comprising a graduated corner iron sleeved to a side wall of said board and adapted to indicate the objective to a succession of offensive plays, a

scrimmage marker comprising a cross bar mounted for sliding movement in channels of said side bars, said scrimmage marker being adapted to indicate the progression of play with respect to said yardage marker, and a field marker comprising a ring member loosely mounted to said cross bar and adapted to indicate the progression of play with respect to transverse calibration of said board.

5. In a football game-board having a calibrated floor rabbeted to side and end walls for securement thereto, of a yardage marker for indicating the objective to a series of plays, said marker consisting in a saddle element having a struck-in stirrup therefrom engageable in an elongated slot grooved from the exposed outer face of a side wall, a depending leg from said stirrup contiguously disposed to said exposed face, and a guard element depending from the seat portion of said saddle element into contiguously disposed relation to the inner face of said side wall.

6. In a football game-board, the combination with side and end walls having a floor rabbeted thereto, of means carried by said side walls adapted to indicate the progression of play with respect to calibrated yardage markings disposed on the field of play of said floor, said means comprising tenons arranged for sliding movement in channels of respective side walls and having a cross bar interposed in integral securement between said tenon members.

7. In a football game-board, the combination with side and end walls having a floor rabbeted thereto, said floor being calibrated transversely and longitudinally thereof, of means carried by said board for indicating the objective and progression of play with respect to the calibrations of said floor.

8. The combination with a football game board having a calibrated floor, of means slidably supported for longitudinal movement by said board for indicating the objective to a series of play, means slidably supported for longitudinal movement by said board for indicating the progression of play, and transversely movable means supported by said last named means for indicating the field location to such play progression.

9. In a football game board, a floor having calibrations therefor, side walls secured to said floor, channels disposed in said side walls, tenon members mounted for sliding movement in said channels, an interposed scrimmage marker integrally secured to said tenon members, and a field marker mounted for independent transverse movement and collective longitudinal movement with respect to said scrimmage marker.

10. The combination with a football game board having a floor and calibrations for said floor, of scrimmage and field markers supported by said board for movement in oppositional planes in a manner to indicate both the

transverse and the longitudinal locations of progressive plays.

11. In a football game board, a floor, calibrations for said floor, means disposed transversely of the floor and constituting a scrimmage marker arranged for slide activity longitudinally of the board for indicating the progression of play, and means constituting a field marker mounted for independent transverse movement and collective longitudinal movement with respect to said scrimmage marker for indicating field disposition of the play.

Signed at Seattle, Washington, this 26th day of October, 1929.

JOSEPH G. WILLEKE.

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