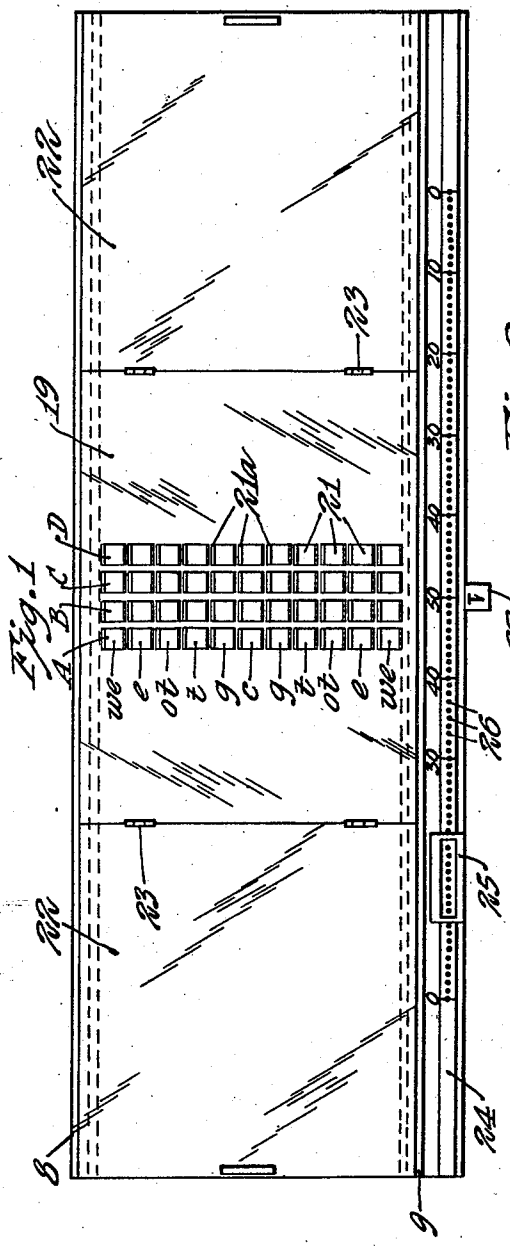
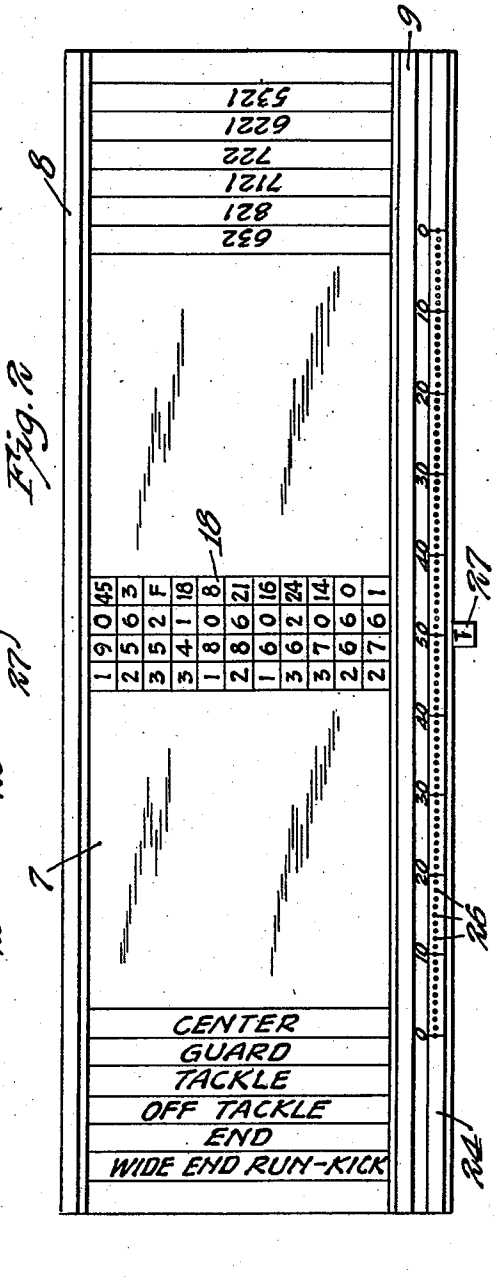
Jan. 4, 1949. E. A. KOBS 2,458,388

SIMULATED FOOTBALL GAME

Filed May 23, 1945 2 Sheets-Sheet 1




Inventor
Edward A. Kobs
By Williamson & Williamson
Attorneys

Jan. 4, 1949. E. A. KOBS 2,458,388

SIMULATED FOOTBALL GAME

Filed May 23, 1945 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

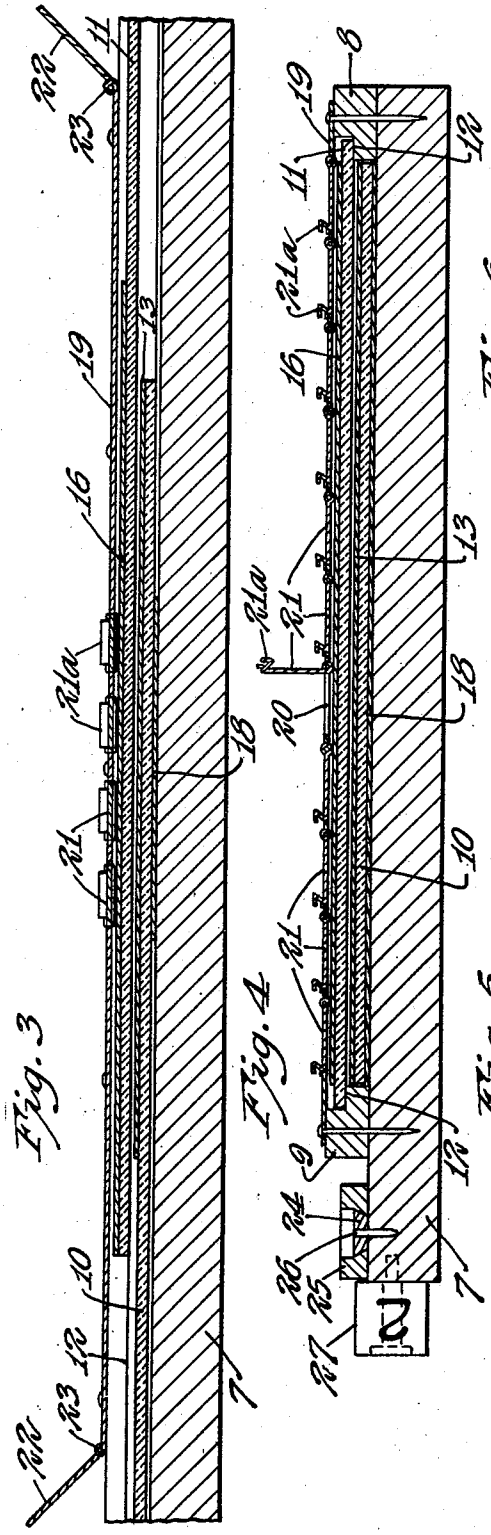


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

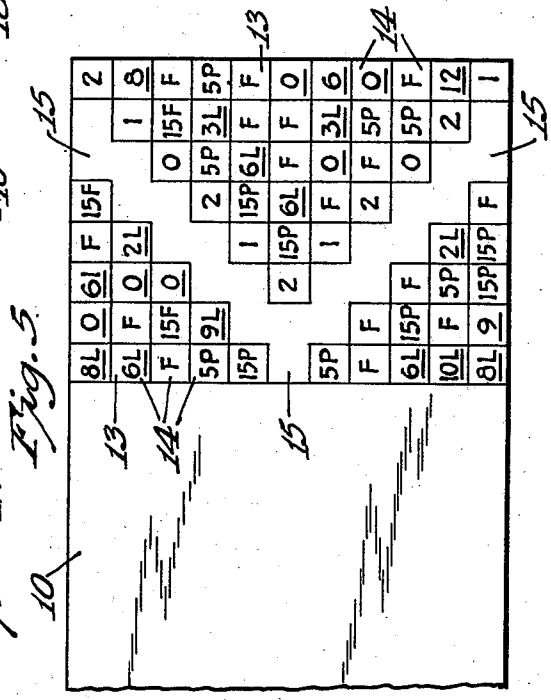


Fig. 5

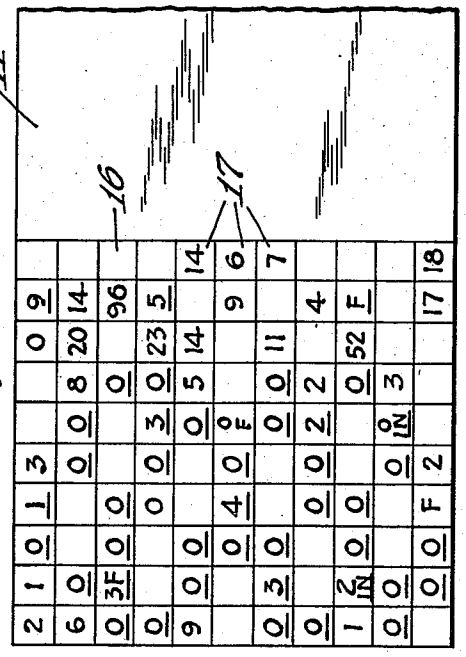


Fig. 6

Inventor
Edward A. Kobs
By Williamson & Williamson
Attorneys

Patented Jan. 4, 1949

2,458,388

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,458,388

## SIMULATED FOOTBALL GAME

Edward A. Kobs, Minneapolis, Minn.

Application May 23, 1945, Serial No. 595,280

5 Claims. (Cl. 273—94)

1

This invention relates to a simulated football game and is adapted to provide game mechanism whereby the various plays and the scoring thereof closely approximate that of an actual game of football.

It is an object of the invention to provide means whereby a game of football can be simulated wherein the plays are not selected by mere chance such as through the rolling of dice or the turning of a spinner, but one player can determine the most feasible offensive play depending upon his position in the field, the number of downs and the period of the game, and the other player will determine his defensive position in a like manner, attempting to anticipate the probable play which will be attempted by his opponent under the specific conditions. It is a game which can be played according to the rules of regulation football and it is one wherein the success of the player depends upon his actual knowledge of the game of football and the proper offensive and defensive plays under the many conditions which might arise in a game.

It is another object of the invention to provide a simulated football game of the type set forth above which not only will serve as a source of amusement for persons who enjoy regulation football games, but which can also be used as a training device to increase the strategic ability of football players.

The above and other objects and advantages of the invention will more fully appear from the following description made in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the views, and, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the apparatus;

Figure 2 is a plan view thereof with the upper cover and slide members removed;

Figure 3 is an enlarged longitudinal vertical sectional view through the apparatus with the ends broken away;

Figure 4 is an enlarged transverse vertical sectional view;

Figure 5 is an enlarged plan view of the offensive play slide member; and

Figure 6 is an enlarged plan view of the defensive play slide member.

As best shown in Figure 4 there is provided a base 7 having stepped rails 8 and 9 mounted thereon. A transparent offensive play slide member 10 is located between the rails 8 and 9, and a transparent defensive slide member 11 lies above the slide 10 and rests upon the steps 12 formed on the rails 8 and 9. The offensive slide member 10 has a sheet 13 thereon which, as shown in Figure 5, is subdivided into a plurality of individual indicia bearing areas 14. An inspection of Figure 5 will show that certain of the areas 14 bear numerals, some bear letters, and others bear letters and numerals. It will also be seen that the sheet 13 is provided with a zigzag connected series of blank areas 15 between certain of the areas 14 which bear letters and/or numerals. The zigzag blank portion 15 is transparent.

2

The overlying transparent defensive slide member 11 carries a sheet 16 having a plurality of indicia bearing subdivisions 17 some of which bear numerals and other of which bear numerals and letters.

In the case of the indicia in the areas 14 of the offensive slide 10 and the areas 17 of the defensive slide 11 it should be understood that some of the indicia on each slide are of one color and other indicia are of a constrasting color. Certain of the indicia on each slide member are underlined to indicate that their colors are different from the indicia which are not underlined.

Beneath the slide members 10 and 11 in the central area of the board is a sheet 18 shown in Figures 3 and 4 and also in Figure 2. This sheet is divided into numeral bearing indicia areas.

Referring to Figure 2 it will be seen that the left hand end portion of the base 7 is provided with notations "center," "guard," "tackle," "off tackle," "end," "wide end run-kick." The right hand end of the base 7 is provided with sets of numerals indicative of different defensive formations. For instance, the first line of numerals reads "6, 3, 2". This means a defensive formation with a six man line, three men in the secondary and two men back. The second line "8, 2, 1" would then, of course, mean an eight man line, a two man secondary and one man back.

Mounted across the rails 8 and 9 is a central cover plate 19 having a plurality of rectangular apertures 20 formed therein, as best indicated in Figure 4. Each aperture 20 is normally closed by a hinged closure 21 having a small handle 21*a* at its edge to facilitate opening thereof. Referring to Figure 1 it will be seen that there are four rows of hinged closures 21, each of which, of course, covers an aperture 20. The transverse row A is the row of line apertures, B is the row of secondary apertures, C is the row of safety apertures, and D is the row of kick and punt apertures. It will also be noted that there are eleven apertures or closures 21 in each of the rows A, B, C, and D. In the line and secondary rows A and B the central covered aperture of each is for a center play and is indicated by the letter "*c*"; the flanking apertures "*g*" are for plays through guard; next the apertures "*t*" are for through tackle plays; the next two labeled "*o.t.*"

are for off tackle plays; the next are for end plays and are marked "e"; and the two outer ones are marked "w.e." for wide end runs.

The cover plate 19 has a pair of hinged screens 22 connected thereto as at 23, it being possible to raise the screens so that opposing players cannot see the manner in which the other has set his offensive or defensive slide member in setting up the play.

At one side of the base 7 is a dovetailed track or guide 24 upon which is movable a yard marker element 25. The guide 24, as shown in Figure 1, is provided with one hundred apertures 26 which are adapted to removably receive a suitable peg to determine the position of the ball longitudinally of the field. The yard marker 25 is adapted to measure off ten of the holes 26 in the same manner as the ordinary linesman's chain. A rotatable square block 27 is mounted on one side of the base 7 and is adapted to carry numerals 1 through 4 so that the particular down can be indicated and remembered.

The original position of the ball on kick-off must be determined in some arbitrary manner as by the rolling of dice. For instance, the higher number of the two dice can be multiplied by ten and the lower number added thereto. If a five and two are rolled the five would be multiplied by ten and two added making a kick-off of fifty-two yards. The offensive player then sets the edge or outer end of the slide 10 at the play position indicated on his end of the board which he desires to utilize as his opening scrimmage play. If the first scrimmage play is to be off tackle he would move his slide 10 to the off tackle indication on the base 7. This is done with the shield or screen 22 raised so that the opponent cannot see the setting of the offensive slide 10. The defensive player then tries to anticipate what type of play might be expected with the play at first down after an opening kick-off of fifty-two yards. The defensive player would then set his defensive slide 11 to one of the line formations indicated on his end of the base 7 and shown at the upper end of Figure 2. Then the hinged closure 21 which cover the apertures 20 at the center of the cover 19 will be raised, the offensive player lifting either the right hand or left hand off tackle hinged cover at his option. This will expose an indicia area 17 on the defensive slide 11 or if there is a transparent or blank area beneath the particular cover on the slide 11 it may expose indicia on the underlying slide 10. It might happen that there is a transparent area exposed on the slide 10 because of the particular position thereof, whereupon one of the indicia areas on the stationary table or sheet 18 will be exposed. The background colors of the areas are different to indicate whether a gain or loss should be counted.

The specific and complete rules of playing the game are not disclosed herein, but a brief description of the method of play is indicated above. Under certain circumstances the indicia area exposed in the first line A may permit raising of an off tackle hinged closure in the secondary line B. Of course, in other plays involving safeties and kicks hinged closures in the lines C and D will be opened.

With apparatus arranged generally as disclosed, it is possible to simulate a game of football which provides realistic actual game conditions, games and scoring results when the rules and tactics of regulation football are followed. It not only provides an absorbing diversion for persons who have a knowledge of football but, as stated in the objects, it provides a very good medium for training players in the tactical theory of an actual football game.



It will, of course, be understood that various changes may be made in the form, arrangement, details and proportions of the various parts without departing from the scope of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. In a simulated football game, a base, a pair of members supported on said base having indicia bearing portions subdivided into individual indicia areas representing the results of football plays, one of said members lying over the other, said members being independently movable relatively to said base, said upper member having windows disposed in its indicia bearing portion and between certain of said individual indicia areas to permit the reading of indicia on the underlying of said members, a cover overlying said members, and said cover having apertures with movable closures to permit viewing of indicia aligned with said apertures when said closures are shifted to an open position.

2. The structure in claim 1, and one of said members having an indicator associated therewith to show the setting thereof for different types of offensive plays, and the other of said members having an indicator associated therewith to indicate the setting of said member for different defensive formations.

3. The structure in claim 1, and one of said members having an indicator associated therewith to show the setting thereof for different types of offensive plays, the other of said members having an indicator associated therewith to indicate the setting of said member for different defensive formations, and the position indicators for said members and the indicia on said members being correlated to provide for a showing of a gain or loss commensurate with the expected average gain or loss in an actual football game under similar offensive plays and defensive plays.

4. The structure in claim 1, and the underlying of said members having windows therein between certain of said individual indicia areas, and a fixed indicia element underlying said first mentioned members.

5. The structure in claim 1, and one of said members having an indicator associated therewith to show the setting thereof for different types of offensive plays, the other of said members having an indicator associated therewith to indicate the setting of said member for different defensive formations, and said windows being arranged in sets, one set being provided for plays terminating at the end of the line of scrimmage, another set being for plays terminating in the second area of defense, and another set for the results of kicks.

EDWARD A. KOBS.


REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

| Number | Name | Date |
|---|---|---|
| 609,915 | Sibley | Aug. 30, 1898 |
| 840,144 | Lincoln | Jan. 1, 1907 |
| 1,617,389 | Harrison et al. | Feb. 15, 1927 |
| 1,667,148 | Farrell | Apr. 24, 1928 |
| 1,670,703 | Wylie et al. | May 22, 1928 |
| 2,120,439 | Jamison | June 14, 1938 |
| 2,260,467 | Le May | Oct. 28, 1941 |
| 2,275,306 | Morrison et al. | Mar. 3, 1942 |