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BASKETBALL REBOUND PRACTICE DEVICE

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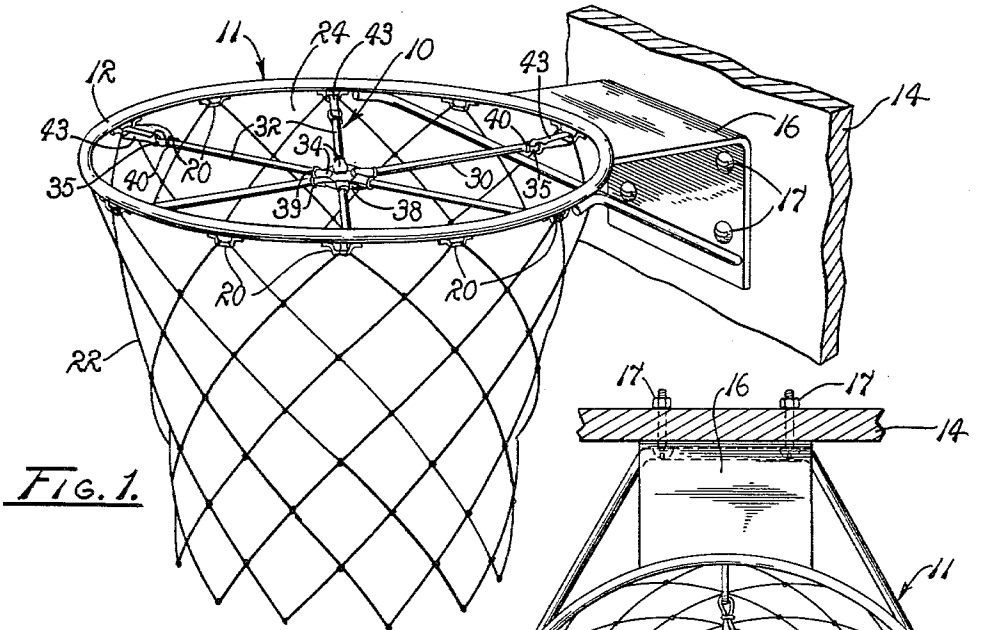


FIG. 1.

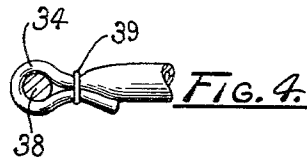


FIG. 4.

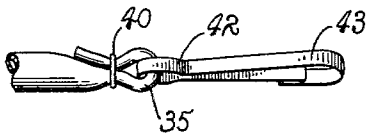


FIG. 5.

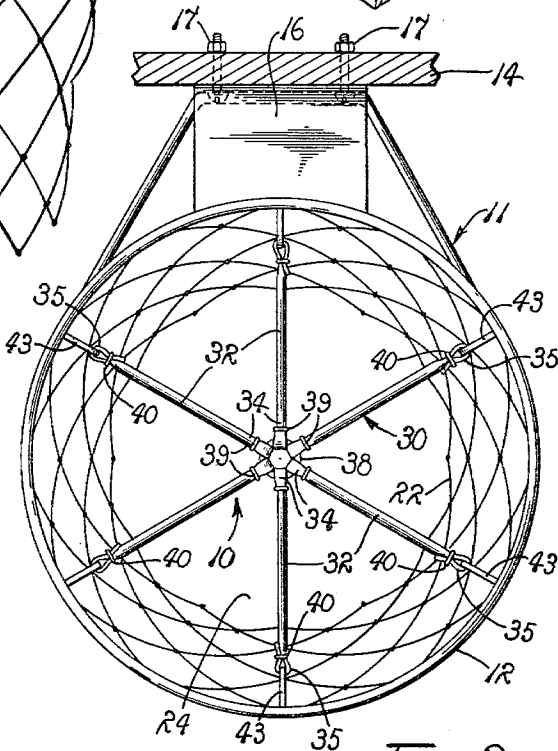


FIG. 2.

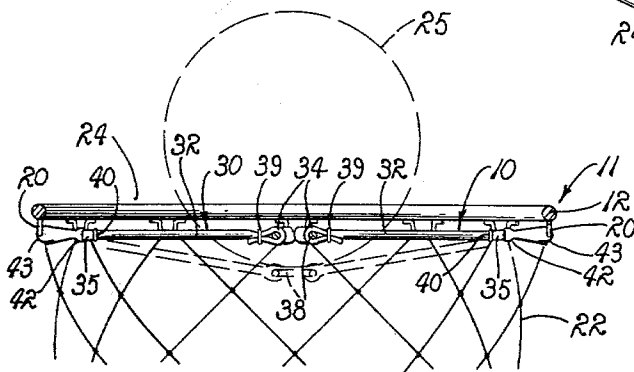


FIG. 3.

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BASKETBALL REBOUND PRACTICE DEVICE
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The present invention relates to a basketball rebound practice device for the hoops of basketball goals and more particularly to such a device which provides ready determination of a successful goal attempt and prompt return of the basketball to the playing area automatically to place the ball in play for successive rebounding or goal attempts.

In the game of basketball, rebounding and follow-up tip-in shots require great proficiency. Thus, much time is devoted to the practice of these skills. In order to provide the opportunity for the practice of such maneuvers, an initial shot must be missed. It is therefore difficult to duplicate actual game conditions in practice sessions with dependable regularity for a player to become proficient in such maneuvers. When a player in practice attempts to miss a shot by aiming the basketball at the rim or bankboard to cause the ball to return to the playing area for rebounding or tip-in practice, the shot is frequently inadvertently made, in which instance the ball drops dead below the basket. Therefore, it is desirable to provide a device which is effective to indicate a successful goal attempt but at the same time returns the ball to the playing area for subsequent rebounding or tip-in attempts. In the past, electronic and mechanically operated devices have been employed for such purpose which have been either too costly for universal use or have proven undesirable in operation and difficult to install and remove.

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a basketball rebound practice device which provides improved practice procedures in the development of players for rebounding and tip-in shots.

Another object is to provide a basketball rebound practice device which is effective to provide ready determination of a successful goal attempt.

Another object is to provide a basketball rebound practice device which is capable of insuring that the basketball remains in play during repeated goal attempts whether successful or unsuccessful.

Another object is to provide a basketball rebound practice device which is capable of dependably returning the basketball to the playing area after each goal attempt in a manner suited to rebounding and tip-in practice.

Another object is to provide a basketball rebound practice device which may be quickly and easily installed and removed.

A further object is to provide such a device which is economical to construct.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will subsequently become apparent upon reference to the following description.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of the basketball rebound practice device of the present invention having a plurality of elastic members mounted on the hoop of a conventional basketball goal.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the basketball rebound practice device and goal of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary front elevation of the basketball rebound practice device and goal showing an alternate flexed position of the device in dashed lines to which it is depressed by a basketball rested thereon.

FIGURE 4 is a somewhat enlarged fragmentary elevation of an inner end of one of the elastic members of the device.

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FIG. 5 is a somewhat enlarged fragmentary elevation of the outer end of the elastic member having a releasably snap mounted thereon.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, a basketball rebound practice device embodying the principles of the present invention is indicated generally at 10. The device is adapted to be associated with a conventional basketball goal generally indicated at 11 which includes a circular hoop or rim 12. The hoop is rigidly supported on a bankboard fragmentarily shown at 14 by a bracket 16 secured to the bankboard by a plurality of nut and bolt assemblies 17. The hoop provides a plurality of depending loop members 20 through which is strung a depending cylindrical net 22. The net and hoop circumscribe an opening 24 which readily accommodates a basketball, indicated in the dashed lines at 25 in FIG. 3. The bankboard 14 and the goal 11 are mounted in elevationally spaced relation from a playing surface by a suitable support member, not shown.

The basketball rebound practice device of the present invention provides a web 30 having a plurality of strands 32 of an elastic material, such as rubber or the like, providing inner and outer ends 34 and 35, respectively. The inner end 34 of each strand is return looped about a circular center ring 38 and is constrained in such position by a pinch ring 39 tightly clamped about the over-lapped end portions of the strand, as shown in FIG. 4. The outer end 35 of each strand is similarly return looped and secured by a pinch ring 40 through the mounting end 42 of an individual releasable spring catch member 43, as shown in FIG. 5. For goals of conventional size, the strands are of the same length, preferably approximately three inches in length when under no tension, but have sufficient elasticity to accommodate stretched positioning across the goal. Tubular surgical rubber tubing is excellently suited to the purpose.

Operation

The operation of the described embodiment of the subject invention is believed to be clearly apparent and is briefly summarized at this point. Prior to a practice session, the basketball rebound practice device 10 is mounted within the hoop 12 in blocking relation to the opening 24 therethrough. In order to accomplish such mounting, the snap members 43 are individually connected to the loop members 20 on the hoop. Such connection is in the same ordered relationship as the connection to the center ring 38 by the inner ends 34 so that the strands are disposed radially of the rim 12 without crossing or entanglement. During such connection, the strands are stretched nearly three times their original length to pre-tension the web 30 in the opening 24.

When the basketball 25 is arched toward the goal 11 in a trajectory to clear the hoop 12, the basketball engages the web 30 with sufficient force to flex the web downwardly of the hoop to the dashed-line position of FIG. 3. Such flexing of the web permits limited entry of the basketball through the hoop so as to provide ready visual determination that a goal has been made. The web 30 then provides a reaction force by return flexing to the original full-line position of FIG. 3 to eject the basketball upwardly and outwardly of the goal. Thus, even with respect to shots properly directed for scoring purposes, the basketball is automatically returned to the playing area to afford additional opportunities for the players in rebounding and tip-in practice.

From the foregoing, it is readily apparent that the structure of the present invention provides an improved basketball return device which dependably returns the basketball to the playing area for successive tip-in shots, rebounding and the like while permitting visual recognition of successful shots. The return device of the present

invention may be easily mounted on a conventional basketball goal without alteration thereof for use during practice sessions and thereafter readily removed so that the goal may be employed for regulation play without impairment of any kind.

Although the invention has been herein shown and described in what is conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is not to be limited to the details disclosed herein but is to be accorded the full scope of the claims so as to embrace any and all equivalent devices and apparatus.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A basketball rebound practice device, for a basketball goal having a bankboard and a hoop extended therefrom in a substantially horizontal plane circumscribing an opening normally adapted to permit passage of a basketball therethrough, comprising a resiliently flexible web having a plurality of elongated elastic tension members providing inner and outer ends, means interconnecting said inner ends of the tension members, and fastener means connected to the outer end of each of the tension members individually to connect said outer ends to the hoop disposing the web beneath said opening thereof with said connecting means at said inner ends of the tension members positioned substantially concentrically of the hoop to preclude complete passage of such basketball therethrough whereby the web is flexed downwardly incident to ball engagement to permit to indicate a successful goal with said elastic tension members return flexing to eject the ball upwardly outwardly from the hoop in directions indicating any eccentricity from the connecting means of said ball engagement with the web.

2. A basketball rebound practice device, for a basketball goal having a bankboard and a hoop extended therefrom in a substantially horizontal plane circumscribing an opening adapted to permit passage of a basketball therethrough and including a plurality of depending loops circumferentially spaced around the hoop to support a net, comprising a resiliently flexible web having a plurality of elongated elastic tension members providing inner and outer ends, a center ring interconnecting said inner ends of the tension members, and catch members individually connected to the outer ends of the tension members individually connectable to said loops to dispose the web in downwardly spaced relation below the hoop with the opening through the hoop remaining clear of any restriction to permit free entry and discharge of the basketball therethrough but blocking travel of the basketball downwardly through the net whereby the web is flexed downwardly incident to ball engagement to permit partial entry of the ball into the net to indicate a successful goal with said elastic tension members return flexing to eject the ball upwardly outward from the hoop in a

direction indicating the eccentricity from the center ring of said ball engagement with the web.

3. A basketball rebound practice device, for a basketball goal having a bankboard and a hoop extended therefrom in a substantially horizontal plane circumscribing an opening adapted to permit passage of a basketball therethrough and including a plurality of depending loops circumferentially spaced around the hoop to support a net, comprising a resiliently flexible web having a plurality of elongated elastic tension members providing looped inner and outer ends, means constraining the ends in said looped arrangement, a center ring passing through said looped inner ends to interconnect said inner ends in circumferentially adjacent relation thereon, and releasable spring catches individually connected to the looped outer ends of the tension members in outwardly extended relation therefrom being individually connectable to said loops on the hoop to dispose the web in a substantially horizontal plane in closely spaced relation below said plane of the hoop with the opening through the hoop remaining clear of any restriction to permit free entry and discharge of the basketball therethrough but blocking travel of the basketball downwardly through the net with the center ring concentrically disposed therein whereby the web is flexed downwardly incident to ball engagement to permit partial entry of the ball into the net to indicate a successful goal with said elastic tension members return flexing to eject the ball upwardly outwardly from the hoop in a direction indicating the eccentricity from the center ring of said ball engagement with the web, said web being readily disconnected from the hoop and automatically collapsible for storage in a minimum of space.

4. A basketball rebound practice device, for a basketball goal providing a circular hoop mounted in a substantially horizontal position, comprising

(A) a plurality of rigid fastening elements mounted on the hoop and downwardly extended therefrom in substantially equally spaced relation about the hoop,

(1) said elements being arranged in pairs on opposite sides of the hoop in substantial alignment diametrically of the hoop, and

(B) elastic members tensioned between the elements of each pair in a common plane substantially parallel to the hoop and in adjacent spaced relation therebelow.

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