April 21, 1942. R. C. BAKER 2,280,682

DOWN MARKER FOR FOOTBALL

Filed April 4, 1941

Fig. 1.

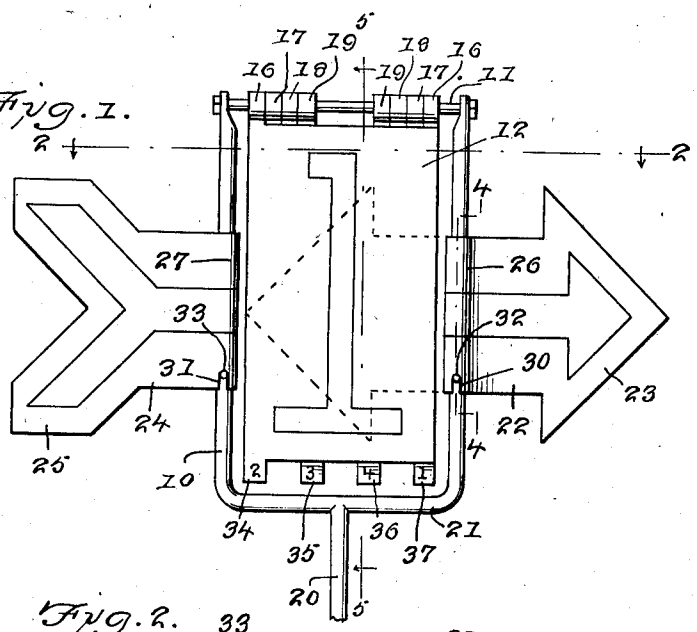


Fig. 2.

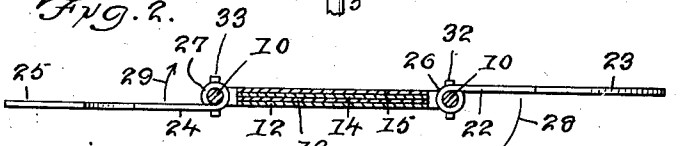


Fig. 3.

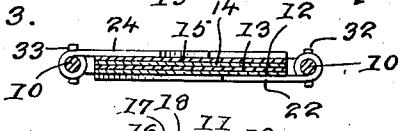


Fig. 4.

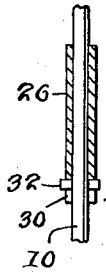


Fig. 5.

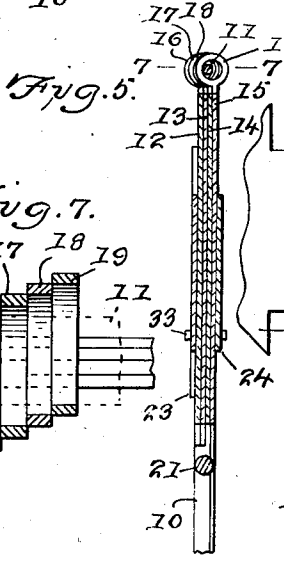


Fig. 6.

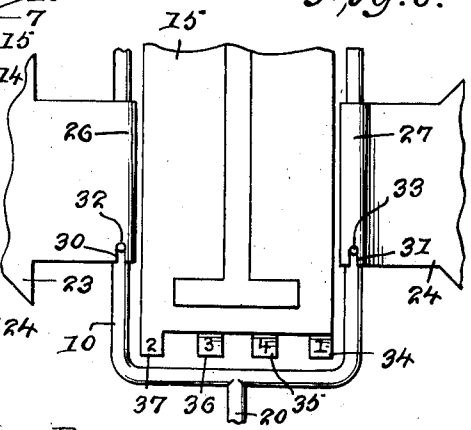


Fig. 7.

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DOWN MARKER FOR FOOTBALL

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Application April 4, 1941, Serial No. 386,899

3 Claims. (Cl. 40—102)

This invention relates to a down marker for the game of football and has for an object to provide a device of this character adapted to display at all times the number of the next down in the series, and the direction the offensive team will attempt to advance the ball, the device being adapted to be carried by a linesman on the side line opposite the position of the ball so that the data will be displayed at the point of interest and will be visible to players and spectators alike.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which will employ four hingedly suspended metal plates individually hung so that they may be lifted and swung over the supporting bar to drop down on the opposite side, the numerals being so arranged on the plates that the same numeral will be displayed on each side of the device for indicating the number of the next down in the series.

A further object is to provide a device of this character having an arrow constructed in two parts hinged to the sides of the U-shaped frame of the device and adapted to be folded to form stops on opposite sides of the plates when the device is not in use, and adapted to be extended to aligned position to show the direction the ball is to be advanced.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which will be formed of a few strong, simple and durable parts, which will be inexpensive to manufacture, and which will not easily get out of order.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed, it being understood that various modifications may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a down marker constructed in accordance with the invention, showing the two sections of the arrow aligned in operative position.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view of the down marker taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of the down marker similar to Figure 2, but showing the two sections of the arrow in folded position to confine the numbered plates between them.

Figure 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of the down marker taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 1 showing the locking pin of one section of the arrow.

Figure 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of the down marker taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 1, showing the sections of the arrow locked in folded position.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary rear elevation of the down marker shown in Figure 1.

Figure 7 is a detail cross sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Figure 5 showing the suspension rings and respective numbered plates.

Referring now to the drawing in which like characters of reference designate similar parts in the various views, 10 designates a U-shaped frame. A plate supporting bar 11 connects the legs of the frame together at the top thereof. Four down indicating plates 12, 13, 14 and 15 are suspended vertically, one in front of the other on the supporting bar 11 by respective relative large pairs of rings 16, 17, 18 and 19. A staff 20 is formed integral with the transverse bottom member 21 of the U-shaped frame and is of sufficient length to dispose the sign plates 12 to 15, inclusive, well above the head of the linesman carrying the down marker.

Each plate bears a numeral on its front face and on its back face and the numerals are arranged so that the same numeral, denoting a down next to be made will be displayed on the front and rear of the down marker. Specifically, the plates 12, 13, 14 and 15 will display on their front faces the respective numerals "1", "2", "3", "4", while the rear faces of these plates will display respectively the numerals "2", "3", "4" and "1". Thus, when plate 12 is displaying the numeral "1" denoting a first down to be next made, plate 15 will also be displaying the numeral "1" which is on its rear face. When plate 12 is swung upwardly and over the supporting bar 11 to the rear side of the plate 15, then the numeral "2" will be displayed on the front face of the plate 13, while the numeral "2" will be displayed on the rear face of plate 12 which has just been turned over. Thus, by turning the plates one by one, the successive downs to be made in their order will be indicated on both the front and the back of the down marker.

For indicating the direction of play, an arrow is provided comprising a front section 22 which carries the arrow head 23, and a rear section 24 which carries the feather 25, both sections being formed of metal and provided with respective hinge eyes 26 and 27 which are rotatably mounted on respective legs of the U-shaped frame 10. The two sections of the arrow may be

swung in opposite directions on the legs of the U-shaped frame as pivots, as denoted by the arrowheads **28** and **29** in Figure 2, to inclose the four sign plates **12** to **15**, inclusive, between them when the device is to be stored or transported.

For locking the two sections of the arrow in aligned operative position or in folded released position, the sections of the arrow are provided with respective notches **30** and **31** formed in the hinge eyes **26** and **27** respectively. Pins **32** and **33** are engaged through the legs of the U-shaped frame and project at both ends beyond the legs to be received in the respective notches **30** and **31**. When the arrow of the down marker is in aligned operative position, as shown in Figure 1, and it is desired to store the down marker, both sections are raised vertically on the legs of the U-shaped frame to disengage the pins **32** and **33** from the notches **30** and **31**, whereupon the sections may be moved vertically downward on the legs of the U-shaped frame to again engage the pins in the notches and lock the sections of the arrow in folded position.

The sign plates **12** to **15**, inclusive, are provided on the lower edges with respective tabs **34**, **35**, **36** and **37** displaying numerals thereon indicative of the numerals on the rear face of the respective sign plates. These tabs provide finger grips, by means of which the plates may be successively turned around on the supporting bar **11** from front to rear of the row.

From the above description, it is thought that the construction and operation of the invention will be fully understood without further explanation.

What is claimed is:

1. A football down marker comprising a U-shaped frame, a plurality of plates hingedly suspended between the legs of the frame and individually swingable from the front side to the rear side of the frame to denote successive downs, and a play direction indicating arrow formed of sections respectively hinged to the legs of the U-shaped frame and adapted to be disposed in alignment in one position to indicate direction of play and adapted to be disposed respectively in front and in rear of the frame to house said plates for transportation and storage when the device is not in use.

2. A football down marker comprising a U-shaped frame, sign plates corresponding to respective downs hingedly supported at the top between the legs of the frame, a play direction indicating arrow having a front section carrying an arrowhead and a rear section carrying a feather, both sections being provided with respective hinge eyes rotatably mounted on respective legs of the U-shaped frame, the two sections of the arrow being swingable in opposite directions on the legs of the frame as pivots to inclose the sign plates between them when the device is to be stored or transported, the two sections of the arrow being swingable to aligned position on the legs of the U-shaped frame to denote direction of play, and means for latching the two sections of the arrow in either folded or aligned position.

3. The structure as of claim 2 and in which said means comprises pins engaged transversely through the legs of the frame, and notches in the hinge eyes of the sections of the arrow interchangeably receiving the front or rear projecting ends of the pins.

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