March 16, 1926. 1,576,792

R. L. ROSS

GAME APPARATUS

Filed Nov. 27, 1925

Fig. 1.

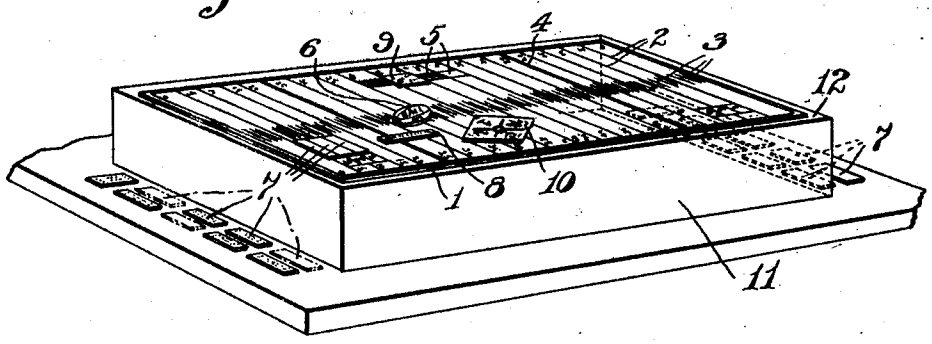


Fig. 2.

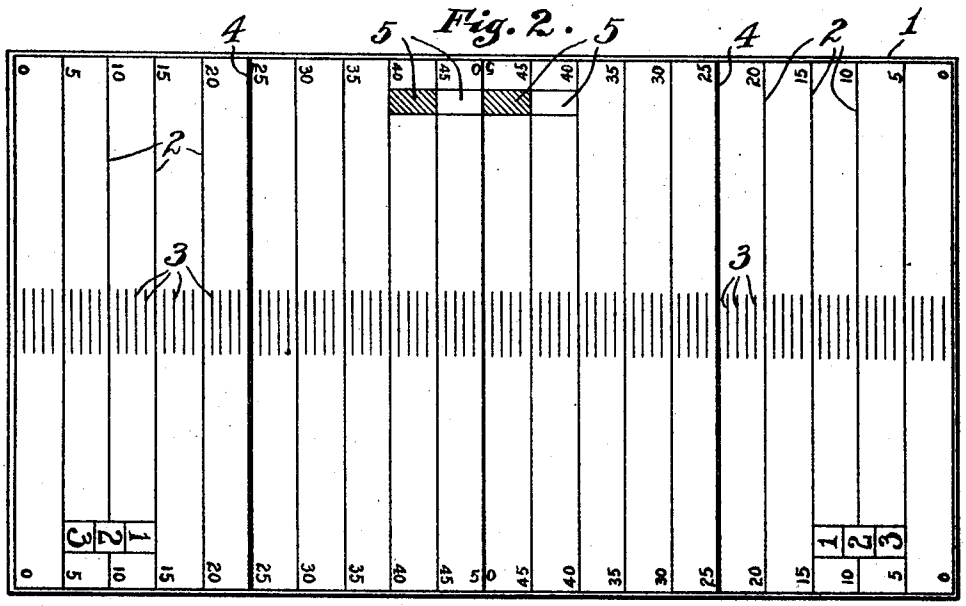


Fig. 3.

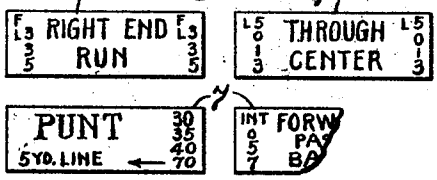


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

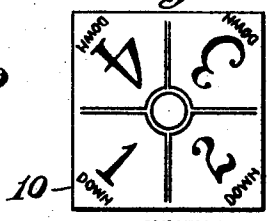


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



INVENTOR.

Robert L. Ross,

BY

Hood & Hahn.

ATTORNEYS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT L. ROSS, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

GAME APPARATUS.

Application filed November 27, 1925. Serial No. 71,541.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT L. ROSS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Game Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in games and has for its particular object the provision of a parlor game adapted to be played by two players and simulating as near as possible the game of foot ball as played in the open field.

One of the objects of my invention is to provide a game of this character wherein there is used a chart laid off in simulation of a foot ball field and a duplicate series of indicator pieces, one set being adapted to be used by one player and the other being adapted to be used by the other player and having indicia thereon to correspond with the indicia on the chart to provide during the play an amusing and interesting game.

For the purpose of disclosing my invention I have illustrated certain embodiments thereof in the accompanying drawings in which—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the game apparatus laid out as intended to be used;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the chart;

Fig. 3 is a view of a series of indicator pieces for use in connection with the chart shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view of a "quarter" tab indicator;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a "down" indicator;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the playing piece for movement on the chart, and

Fig. 7 is a plan view of the "gain" indicator.

In the embodiment illustrated I provide a chart 1 which may be printed on any suitable material, preferably stiff, such as cardboard or the like and which is ruled transversely thereof by lines 2 to simulate the markings of a foot ball field, starting in the center with the fifty yard line and moving back by five yard graduations to the zero or goal line. Intermediate of the five yard lines there are suitable yardage graduating lines as 3. Intermediate the center fifty yard line and the goal line at each end of the field and at the twenty-five yard line the lines 4 are made heavier at this point for a purpose which will more fully hereinafter appear.

At each of the chart and near one side I preferably provide the indicia 1, 2 and 3 and on one side approximately at the fifty yard line I provide a series of marked off spaces 5.

The game piece 6 is printed to simulate a foot ball and is adapted to lie on top of the chart and be moved back and forth in accordance with the play indicated and provided for by the play indicators 7 of which I preferably provide 11, although this number is not arbitrary and these play indicators are duplicated so that each side will have one set. In addition to the play indicators I provide a gain indicator 8 which co-operates with the chart and is moved along in accordance with the play to indicate the amount of gain necessary to be made after each play has been called. I also provide a quarter indicator 9 which is adapted to rest on the blanks 5 and be moved to one of these blanks in accordance with the progress of the game. In addition to the above indicators I provide a "down" indicator 10 preferably divided off into four squares numbered respectively 1, 2, 3 and 4 for indicating the "down" which has been accomplished.

The parts above described are preferably packed in a suitable box or container 11 which when the pieces are adapted to be used in playing may be turned up side down so that the bottom 12 forms a table or support for the chart and its ends provide obscurities for the play indicators.

In using the game a set of play indicators is distributed to each of the players and these are arranged face up behind the opposite ends of the box 11 on which the chart is adapted to be placed, the ends of the box serving to obscure the play indicators from the opposing player. The quarter tab is placed on one of the spaces 5 to indicate the first half of the first quarter and the "down" indicator may be placed at any position on the chart desired to be used for indicating the "downs." The ball 6 is placed on the chart on the twenty yard line nearest the player who has elected to take the offense. After the parts have been arranged the player who has been elected to take the defense selects from the play indicators 7, three indicators which are placed on the chart opposite the numbers 1, 2 and 3 face

down. These play indicators each has a different form of play indicated thereon, as for example, a "right end run" and at each end thereof indications of the yardage to be gained or lost. The indications at each end may be similar or they may be different. After the defensive player has elected the three plays of three play indicators and positioned the same opposite or over the numbers 1, 2 and 3 at his end of the chart, the offensive player calls from one of his indicators a play. If the indicator selected by the defensive player and placed over the numeral 1, when turned up proves to be the same play as that called by the offensive player then the first indicia or indication at the top of the right hand end of the gain indicator indicates what the play has accomplished, as for instance, it may be a fumble as indicated by the letter F in the first of the indicators shown or it may be a loss of five yards as shown by the second play indicator or any arbitrary gain or loss as desired. If the first play indicator is turned up and does not correspond with the play called by the offensive player then the second play indicator is turned up and if this corresponds to the play called by the offensive player then the play will be the second of the column of indicia at the right hand of the play indicator which may be, as shown by the first of the indicators illustrated, a loss of three yards and the ball is moved accordingly on the chart backwards from the point of play three yards. If the second play indicator turned up fails to correspond to the play called then the third play indicator is turned up and if this corresponds to the play called by the offensive player then the third indication of the column of indicia on the right hand end of the play indicator will be the control of the ball moved in accordance with the gain or loss indicated thereby. If none of the play indicators turned up correspond to the play called by the offensive player then the fourth indication of the column of indicia at the right hand end of the play indicator controls and the ball is moved on the chart either forward or backward in accordance with different indications. After the ball by the above process has been moved down the field either in one direction or the other until it reaches the twenty-five yard line (the line heavily shown) then instead of the indicia at the right hand end of the player indicator controlling, the indicia at the left hand end of the indicator will control, the method of playing however being the same as above described.

The gain indicator 8 is used in connection with the advance or retreat of the ball in the same manner as the linesmen in the game of foot ball use their indicator for showing a gain or loss. In other words, with the first play the gain indicator is placed in position and after that each successive play must advance the ball sufficiently far so that four plays will have advanced the ball the length of the gain indicator. If four plays advance the ball the length of the gain indicator then the offensive player retains possession of the ball and the gain indicator is moved forward to commence another series of four plays. If in four plays the ball is not advanced a distance equal to the length of the gain indicator then the initial offensive player loses possession of the ball and the player who had been on the defense gains possession of the ball and becomes the offensive player. After the ball has passed out of possession of one player into the possession of another a half of a quarter is supposed to have ended and the quarter indicator 9 is moved to the next succeeding space of the spaces 5 on the chart to show which half of the quarter is being played. Each called play is considered a "down" and the "down" indicator moved accordingly and if, after four "downs" have been called or played and the ball has not been advanced by the offensive player the distance of the gain indicator then of course the ball is lost to the defensive player who in turn, as above explained, becomes the offensive player.

I claim as my invention:

1. A game apparatus comprising a playing board having on its surface indicia comprising a series of parallel lines extending transversely thereof uniform distances apart to indicate a foot ball field and having at each end thereof a plurality of indicating characters, of a series of play indicators provided in duplicate each indicator having indicia thereon to indicate a play and having at one end thereof a column of indicia to co-operate with the indicating characters on the playing board and a game piece arranged to be moved back and forth on said board in accordance with the indications of the play indicators.

2. A game apparatus comprising a playing board having on its surface indicia comprising a series of parallel lines extending transversely thereof and uniform distances apart to indicate a foot ball field and at predetermined distances from the end certain of said lines having distinctive marking and having at each end thereof a plurality of indicating characters, of a series of play indicators provided in duplicate each indicator having indicia thereon to indicate a play and having at opposite ends columns of indicia to co-operate with the indicating characters on the playing board and a game piece arranged to be moved back and forth on said board in accordance with the indications of the play indicators.

3. A game apparatus comprising a playing board having on its surface indicia comprising a series of parallel lines extending

transversely thereof uniform distances apart to indicate a foot ball field and having at each end thereof a plurality of indicating characters, of a series of play indicators provided in duplicate each indicator having indicia thereon to indicate a play and having at one end thereof a column of indicia to cooperate with the indicating characters on the playing board, a game piece arranged to be moved back and forth on said board in accordance with the indications of the play indicators and a gain indicator arranged to be moved back and forth on the board with said game piece.

In witness whereof, I, ROBERT L. ROSS, have hereunto set my hand at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 24th day of November, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and twenty five.

ROBERT L. ROSS.