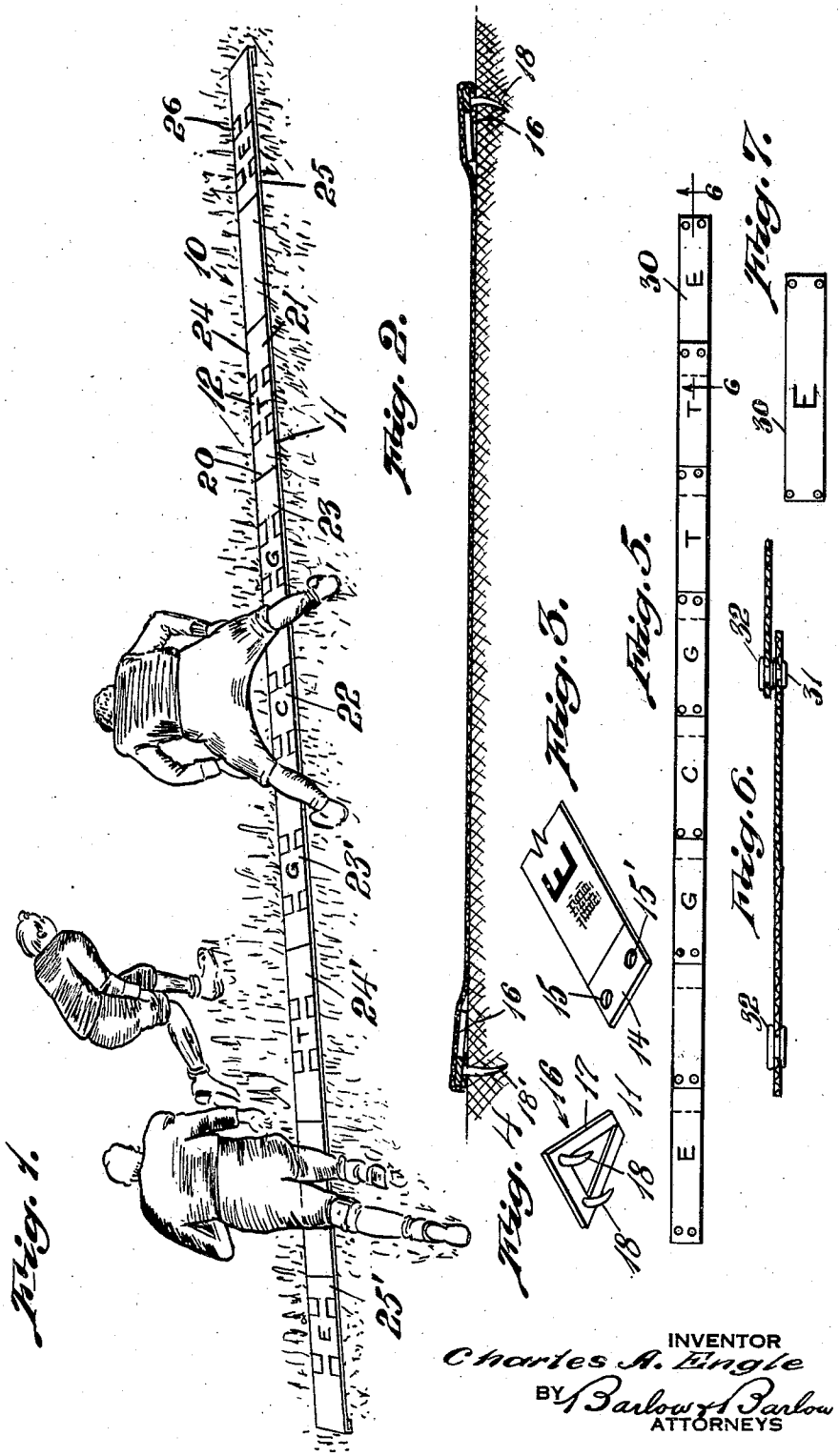
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FOOTBALL INSTRUCTING DEVICE

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## FOOTBALL INSTRUCTING DEVICE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 35—29)

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This invention relates to the game of football and has particular reference to teaching the game of football.

The game of football has developed to the point where the accurate and precise movement of the players is of importance. In order that the football player may carry out predetermined and prearranged movement it is necessary that considerable practice be resorted to. The entire team consisting of a line and the backs have practiced as a unit in order that a line and backs may move in coordination. The back determines his course of movement by the position of the men in the line and in order to accurately carry out the movement of the backs it has been necessary to have the men in a line in order that the back may visualize where he is to move with reference to the men in the line. In many instances this sort of practice occupies the time of the line men purely for the benefit of the movement of the backs.

One of the objects of this invention is to provide a device which will enable the men in the line of football teams to occupy themselves with other training while still providing a visual location of the men in the line with reference to which the movement of the backs occurs.

Another object of this invention is to provide a device which will act as a substitute for the line and will illustrate to the back the position of the line and the individual men thereof so that in his training he may move with reference to the line just as if the line men were there and moving forward themselves.

Another object of this invention is to provide a substitute line which may be easily handled but which may be stretched taut upon the ground and there anchored in place.

Another object of the invention is to provide a line the anchoring means for which may be detached so that the line may be used upon a hard wood floor such as in a gymnasium or the like if desired.

Another object of this invention is to provide a line which is shiftable by being made of detachable sections which may be attached in an order different from that of the normal balanced line.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the instructing device in position on the ground with players in position with reference thereto;

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Fig. 2 is a sectional view through the device;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of an end of the flexible portion of the device showing the eyelet openings in the end thereof;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the anchors for the end;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of a modified form of the device;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view thereof showing a fragmental portion thereof only upon an enlarged scale;

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of one section as shown in Fig. 5.

In proceeding with this invention I provide a strip of textile material, such as canvas, which will be substantially the length of the normal balanced line of a football team and by certain prominent indicia I divide up this strip into sections so that the position of each of the players in the line may be readily apparent when standing a distance from the line at which the backs of the football team would ordinarily stand. I further provide a means for anchoring this canvas strip on the ground so as to hold the same in a taut position. This line may then be substituted for the actual players in the line and teaching of the movements of the backs with reference to the line may proceed in a normal manner while the line players may be given other instruction.

With reference to the drawing, 10 designates generally a strip of canvas which may be suitably seamed along its longitudinal straight edges 11 and 12. At the end 14 (see Fig. 3) of this canvas strip, I provide openings 15, 15', which may be suitably reinforced by grommets if desired. An anchor designated generally 16 and consisting of a frame 17 tapered on its opposite edges is provided with hooked or curved spikes 18 and 18' positioned a distance apart equal to the distance between the openings 15, 15'. The end portion 14 of the canvas strip may be placed beneath this anchor 17 with the spikes 18 extending through the openings 15, 15' as shown in Fig. 4 and then the upper part of the canvas may be disposed over the top of the anchor 16 as shown in Fig. 2 so as to firmly anchor one end of the canvas strip in position while covering the anchor. The canvas strip is then stretched taut and the opposite end is anchored in position as shown in Fig. 2 so as to dispose the same over the ground in a taut manner. These anchors may be readily detached from the strip if de-

sired enabling the strip to be placed upon a hard floor gymnasium where instruction work may be proceeded with in bad weather.

In order that the position of the players may be readily apparent, I have provided marks **20** at spaced intervals along the strip dividing the same into rectangular sections **21** which will correspond in length to the position of the player in that section. Thus the center section **22** is marked with a C to indicate the center, the next sections **23, 23'** are marked with a G to indicate the position of the guard, the next sections **24, 24'** are marked with a T to indicate the position of the tackles, and then the end sections **25, 25'** are marked with an E to indicate the position of the end. A space between the sections **24** and **25** indicates the spacing of the ends from the tackles.

With an arrangement thus provided, the straight edges of the strip provide a means to indicate the general extent of the line on the playing field while the markings on the strip indicate the position of the players in the line. The backs may run with reference to these positions of the players to practice their foot work and timing in getting off the plays which they are taught. During this time the players which would ordinarily occupy positions in the line while the backs are practicing can devote their attention to other instruction work.

In order to practice signal work, the positions may be numbered in the spaces **26** shown in each of the sections, such as by marking with chalk. This provides an opportunity for visual signal drill which assists in fixing signals in the mind of the player.

In some cases it is desirable to practice with the line in an unbalanced position and in this case I have provided that portions of the line as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 may be formed of sections **30** and detached from each other so that for instance the tackles may be placed together on the same side of the center or various combinations may be provided by snapping the sections together in a selected arrangement. For this purpose studs **31** are positioned at the ends of one section while sockets **32** to resiliently clasp therewith are positioned at the ends of an adjacent section. Thus, the detachment may be had and reassembly in order to afford the line of the correct selection which may exist in certain plays of the game. This affords the backs an opportunity to practice with an unbalanced line as well as the usual balanced formation, and by approaching from the opposite side the balance may be reversed thus getting practice in foot work and precision of movement which can occur only with a predetermined layout representing the actual position of the players on the field.



I claim:

1. A device for instructing the playing of football comprising a panel shaped to indicate the general extent of the line of players of a football team and means on said panel dividing it into sectors corresponding with the position of the different players comprising said line whereby the position of the players in the line may be determined without the presence of the player in the line, said panel being provided with spikes curved toward the middle of the panel to draw the panel taut as they are positioned in the ground.

2. A device for instructing the playing of football comprising a panel shaped to indicate the general extent of the line of players of a football team and means on said panel dividing it into sectors corresponding with the position of the different players comprising said line whereby the position of the players in the line may be determined without the presence of the player in the line, said panel being provided with openings in an end thereof and an anchor having spikes curved toward the middle of the panel extending through said openings to hold the panel taut on the ground.

3. A device for instructing the playing of football as in claim 1 wherein said panel is provided with an erasable surface.

4. A device for instructing the playing of football as in claim 1 wherein said panel is formed of several sections detachably held together by fasteners.

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