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BASEBALL SCORING AND SIMULATED BASEBALL GAMES

Filed Nov. 4, 1954

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

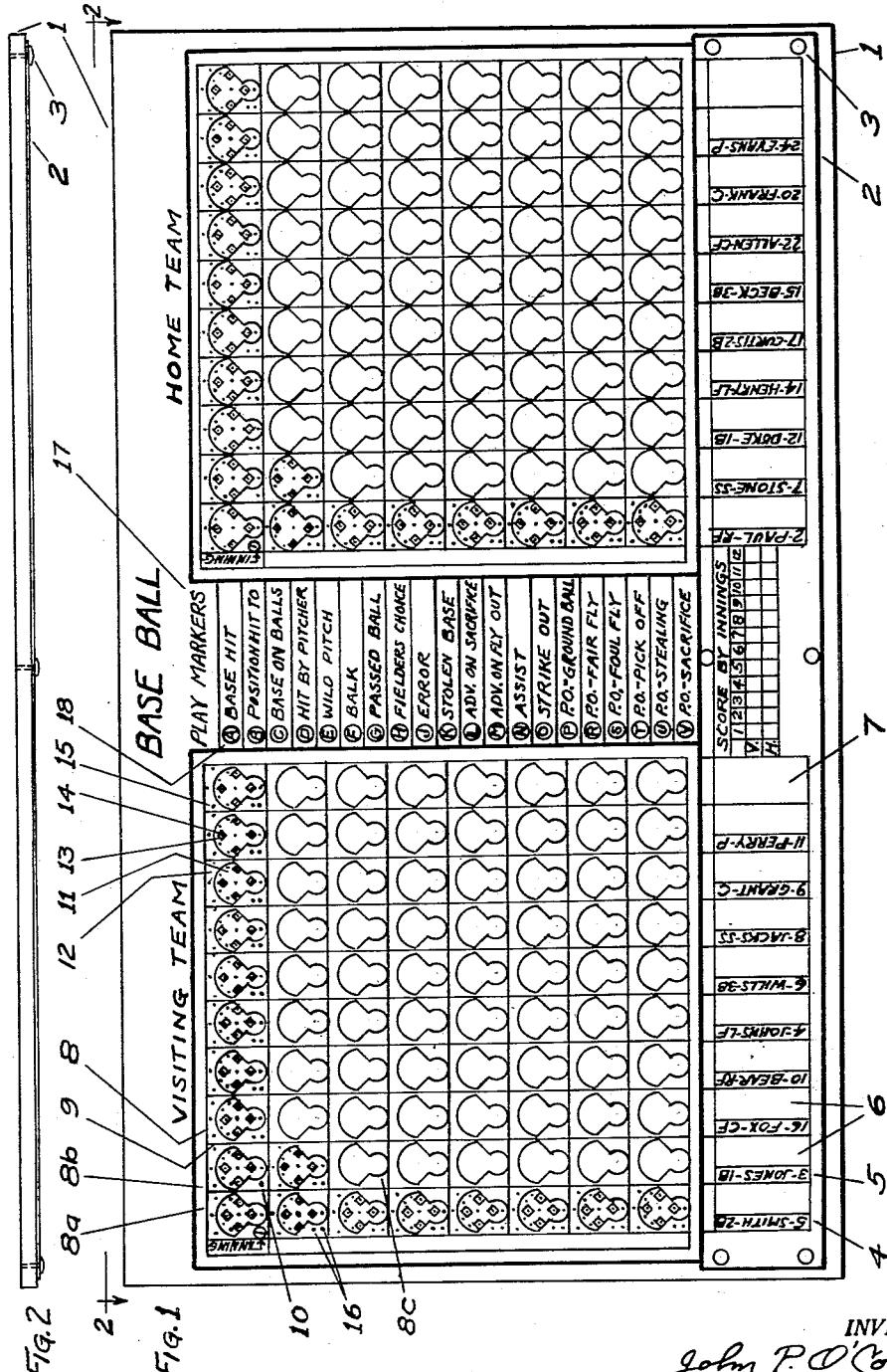


FIG. 2

FIG. 1

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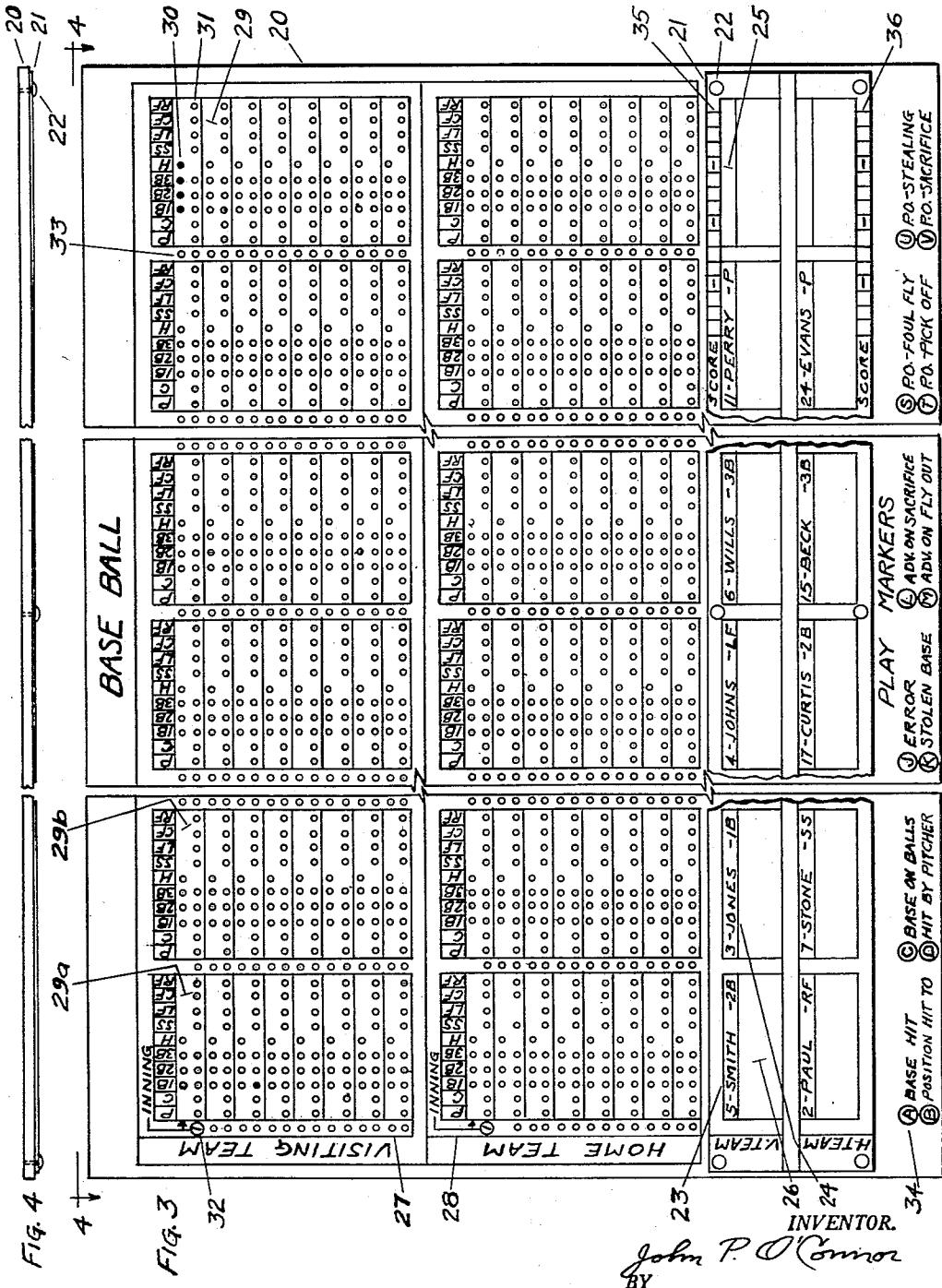
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BASEBALL SCORING AND SIMULATED BASEBALL GAMES

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FIG. 6

42—②

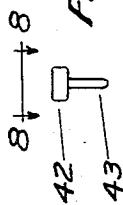
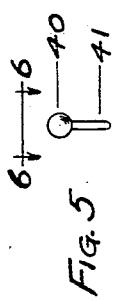


FIG. 11

BASE	BATTER	BASE	BATTER
RUNNERS	RUNNERS	TWO OUT	
NONE	NONE ON SINGLE		
3B-1B	TO RF		
RETIRED			
AT 1B	GR TO 3B	SIDE	
TO 2B	SAFE	RETIRED	
AT 2B	AT 3B-2B	OUT	
HOLDS	FLY O.	SIDE	
AT 3B	TO LF	RETIRED	
HOLDS	FLY O.	SIDE	
AT 3B	TO CF	RETIRED	
HOLDS	SCORES		
AT 1B-2B	GR TO SS.		
SCORE	SAFE E. SS		
AT 1B-3B	GROUND O.	SIDE	
ADVANCE	2B-1B	RETIRED	
AT 2B-3B	SAC BUNT	SIDE	
ADVANCE	1B - R.	TO LF	
AT 1B-2B	Foul O.	SIDE	
HOLD	TO C	RETIRED	

FIG. 10

BASE	BATTER	BASE	BATTER
RUNNERS	RUNNERS	TWO OUT	
NONE	NONE ON SINGLE		
3B-1B	TO RF		
RETIRED			
AT 1B	GR TO 3B	SIDE	
TO 2B	SAFE	RETIRED	
AT 2B	FLY O.	SIDE	
HOLDS	TO LF	RETIRED	
AT 3B	FLY O.	SIDE	
HOLDS	TO CF	RETIRED	
AT 1B-2B	GR TO SS.		
SCORE	SAFE E. SS		
AT 1B-3B	GROUND O.	SIDE	
ADVANCE	2B-1B	RETIRED	
AT 2B-3B	SAC BUNT	SIDE	
ADVANCE	1B - R.	TO LF	
AT 1B-2B	Foul O.	SIDE	
HOLD	TO C	RETIRED	

FIG. 9

BASE	BATTER	BASE	BATTER
RUNNERS	RUNNERS	TWO OUT	
NONE	NONE ON SINGLE		
3B-1B	TO RF		
RETIRED			
AT 1B	GR TO 3B	SIDE	
TO 2B	SAFE	RETIRED	
AT 2B	AT 2B-3B	OUT	
HOLDS	SINGLES		
AT 3B	TO RF		
HOLDS	AT 1B-2B	SIDE	
AT 1B-3B	STRIKE O.	SIDE	
HOLD	RETIRED		

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BASEBALL SCORING AND SIMULATED BASEBALL GAMES

John P. O'Connor, Baltimore, Md.

Application November 4, 1954, Serial No. 466,830

14 Claims. (Cl. 273—93)

This invention relates to the combination of the means for scoring a live baseball game or for playing a simulated baseball game.

Among the objects of this invention is to provide, principally but not exclusively for home use, a more realistic and lifelike method and the means for making a play by play record of a live baseball game, especially as it is broadcast, so that the plays can be recapitulated and the record of the performance of each player in each of his times at bat can be seen in detail.

Another object is to provide an interesting and entertaining simulated baseball game in which pretended plays are determined by chance and which can be played as solitaire or with an opponent.

Another object is to provide a novel and entertaining home method for instruction in the rules of the game of baseball.

For all of the above objects there is provided a unique score board on which, for each turn at bat of each player in the line-up of each team there is a separate diagram with a location for each of the four bases and each of the nine fielding positions of a baseball diamond. Also provided are markers for indicating the different types of plays in a baseball game and for positioning at the appropriate locations on the diagrams to record the results of the plays as they affect each participant. For the simulated baseball game, in addition to the above, there is provided a means for determining by chance the pretended plays of the game to be recorded with the markers on the score board diagrams.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of the novel combination and arrangement of the instrumentalities hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and set forth in the claims hereto appended.

For the purpose of illustrating the invention there are shown by the accompanying drawings forms thereof which are at present preferred, although it is to be understood that the various instrumentalities of which the invention consists can be variously arranged and organized and that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and organizations of the instrumentalities as herein shown and described.

In the drawings in which like reference characters refer throughout to like parts:

Figure 1 is a front view of the preferred embodiment of the score board of this invention.

Figure 2 is a view on line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a front view of a second embodiment of the score board of this invention.

Figure 4 is a view on line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a side view of one type of marker for recording the plays of the game on the score board.

Figure 6 is a view on line 6—6 of Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a side view of a numerical marker for indicating the number of the inning.

Figure 8 is a view on line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9, Figure 10 and Figure 11 are front views of

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some of the cards from which are determined the plays of the simulated baseball game to record on the score boards of Figure 1 or Figure 3.

The preferred embodiment of the score board of this invention, which is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 is made of rigid material and can be of various sizes. The actual full size of the one illustrated is approximately 15 inches by 26 inches. As shown the board 1 has the heading Baseball and to the left the sub-heading Visiting Team and to the right the sub-heading Home Team. As the make-up and the use of the portions of the score board under the two sub-headings are similar the description of the Visiting Team portion will apply to both.

At the bottom of board 1 is provided a space for a printed form 2 shown removably attached to the board by thumb tacks 3. Shown entered on the form are illustrative line-ups giving the number, name and playing position of each of the ball players in the respective batting orders of the two teams. The playing positions are indicated by conventional abbreviations. At the conclusion of the game the form may be removed from the board and a fresh one attached for the line-ups for the next game. At 4 is listed the player who is first in the batting order of the Visiting Team and at 5 the player who is second in the batting order, the other players batting in the sequence in which they are shown listed. At 6 are blank spaces for inserting the names of possible substitutes for the respective players. Additional extra space has been allowed for substitute pitchers as shown at 7. Between the line-ups of the two teams under Score by Innings are blocks for recording the runs made in each inning by the "V" team and the "H" team.

Above and in line with the space for each position in the batting order is a column of colored diagrams 8 each of which simulates a baseball diamond. The diagrams are shown complete in the first column and in the other columns where not shown complete are indicated by an outline of the infield as shown at 8c. The diagrams are separated by contrasting lines 9. The diagram 8a at the top of the column above the first position in the batting order is used for recording the result of the first time at bat of the player listed at 4 and if he succeeds in getting on base, has progress around the bases. The other seven diagrams in the same column are used in succession for the subsequent times at bat of the same player. The eight diagrams are sufficient for approximately fourteen innings of play. The diagram at 8b is used for recording the result of the first time at bat of the player listed at 5 and the other diagrams in the same column for his subsequent times at bat. Each of the diagrams in the top horizontal line is used in succession for succeeding batters and if necessary the diagrams in the second horizontal line until the Visiting Team is retired in its half of that inning. The diagrams on the Home Team portion of the score board are then used in a similar manner for the Home Team batters.

Except as shown on diagrams 8a and 8b all of the diagrams 8 are identical. At 8a is the digit 1 in a circle to which an arrow from the word "Inning" is pointed indicating the start of the first inning. In 8b is the single hole 10 for positioning, if appropriate, a marker for indicating that one man was out when the second batter in the first inning came to bat. The infield 11 of each diagram 8 is colored tan and the outfield 12 is colored green to simulate the normal colors of a real baseball diamond. Each of the four bases is represented by a square 13. At the center of each of the four bases there is a small hole 14 and at the normal location of each of the nine fielding positions there is a small hole 15. On Figure 1 these holes are indicated by dots. Holes 14 and 15 are for positioning the markers shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6 for recording the plays of the

game. One of holes 16 is for positioning, in the diagram of the first batter in each inning, the proper numerical marker (Figure 7 and Figure 8) to indicate the number of the inning. Holes 16 are also used for positioning, when appropriate, a marker or markers to indicate the number of men out when the player, in whose diagram they are placed, comes to bat.

As indicated above the plays of the game as they affect each batter, base runner and defensive player are recorded at the appropriate locations on the proper ones of diagram 8 by a series of different distinctive markers of the type shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6. The markers are preferably color coded to indicate the different types of plays and are solid colors or various combinations and designs of colors. Under "Play Markers" at 17 are circles 18 which would be colored to correspond to the markers used for signifying the play beside which the circle is shown. For the purpose of identification on this drawing these circles are designated by letters of the alphabet. The markers which are positioned in the holes 14 in the bases indicate a base runner and the type of play by which he got on base or advanced from one base to another. The markers which are positioned in the holes 15 at the fielding positions indicate the defensive handling of the ball in the case of a put-out, assist or error, or, in the case of a safe hit, the position to which the hit was made.

For example if a batter makes a one base hit to center field an "A" marker is placed in the first base hole 14 and a "B" marker is placed in the center field hole 15 of his diagram. For a two base hit the "A" marker would be placed in the second base hole 14 and none in first base. For a home run the "A" marker would be placed in hole 14 at the home plate and none in any of the other bases. Any marker placed in the hole 14 at the home plate indicates that a run has been scored and the color of the marker signifies the type of play by which it was scored whether a hit, error, base on balls, etc.

To illustrate the operation of the board a series of plays and the specific locations at which the markers recording these plays are positioned are tabulated. The markers listed are positioned in the diagram 8 of the batter beside whose name they are tabulated unless otherwise noted. Conventional abbreviations are used to designate the fielding positions.

1st. Batter	Smith—Singles to R. F.	"A" marker in first base hole 14 (Diagram 8a). "B" marker in R. F. hole 15.
2nd. Batter	Jones—Fly out to C. F.	"R" marker in C. F. hole 15 (Diagram 8b).
3rd. Batter	Fox—Base on balls	"C" marker in first base hole 14. "C" marker in second base hole 14 in diagram 8a of 1st. batter indicating advance by B. on B.
4th. Batter	Bear—Long fly out to R. F.	"R" marker in R. F. hole 15. "M" marker in third base hole 14 in diagram 8a of 1st. batter indicating advance after catch of fly ball.
5th. Batter	Johns—Ground out S. S. to 1B	"N" marker in S. S. hole 15. "P" marker in 1B hole 15.

Five players have come to bat and three outs have now been made to retire the Visiting Team in its half of the first inning. To indicate the number of the inning and also to designate the player who bats first in the second inning a numeral 2 marker (Figure 7 and Figure 8) is positioned in hole 16 in the diagram 8 of Wills the sixth batter of the Visiting Team. All of the aforesaid markers remain where they have been positioned until the conclusion of the game so that the plays can be recapitulated and the record of any player determined.

As tabulated above the diagram 8a of the first batter will now have an "A" marker in 1B hole 14, a "B" 75

marker in the R. F. hole 15, a "C" marker in the 2B hole 14 and an "M" marker in the 3B hole 14. As no marker appears in the home plate on the diagrams of any of the batters of the Visiting Team this shows that no runs were scored and the markers positioned show that the first batter and the third batter were left on base when the third out was made.

The diagrams for the Home Team are then used in a similar manner to record the plays of the Home Team batters until the Home Team is retired in its half of the inning.

Figure 3 and Figure 4 illustrate a second embodiment of the score board of this invention. It is of the same general size and shape as the board shown in Figure 1 and 15 is used in a similar manner and in conjunction with the same markers for recording the plays of the game as described for Figure 1. At the top of board 20, Figure 3, is the heading "Baseball" and at the left side reading vertically are "Home Team" and "Visiting Team." At 20 21 is a printed form shown removably attached to the board by thumb tacks 22. Shown entered on the form 21, to the right of "H. Team" and "V. Team," are illustrative line-ups giving the number, name and playing position of the ball players in the respective batting orders 25 of the two teams. The playing positions are indicated by conventional abbreviations. At 23 is the player who is first in the batting order of the Visiting Team and at 24 the player who is second in the batting order. The other players of the Visiting Team bat in the sequence 30 in which they are listed. Only six positions of the batting order are shown on the drawing but ten are provided on the full board, the extra one which is shown blank at 25 being for possible substitute pitchers. At each of the 35 positions in the batting order there are blank spaces 26 for listing possible substitute players.

Above and in line with each position in the batting order are two series of diagrams, one series 27 being for the batters of the Visiting Team, as noted at the left, and one series 28 for the batters of the Home Team. As the 40 makeup and use of the two series of diagrams are similar, the description of the 27 series will apply to both. There is an individual diagram 29 for recording the result of each time at bat of each player. In each of the individual diagrams 29 are holes 30 representing each of the 45 four bases and holes 31 representing each of the nine fielding positions of a baseball diamond.

The positions are indicated by conventional abbreviations at the top of the diagrams. In diagram 29a are positioned the markers for recording the results of the first time at bat of the player listed at 23 who is the first batter at the start of the game. This is indicated at 32 by the digit 1 in a circle connected to the word "Inning" by a line from which is an arrow pointing to diagram 29a. Each of the diagrams below 29a is used in succession for the above player's subsequent times at bat. In diagram 29b are positioned the markers for recording the results of the first time at bat of the player listed at 24 and each of the diagrams below is used in succession for his subsequent times at bat. Each adjacent diagram in the horizontal row is used in succession for succeeding batters of the Visiting Team until the side is retired in its half of the inning. In the spaces between the 50 diagrams are holes 33 for positioning a marker or markers before the diagram of a batter indicating the number of men out when he came to bat. One of holes 33 is also used for positioning before the diagram of the first batter in each inning the numerical marker (Figure 7 and Figure 8) indicating the number of the inning.

After the Visiting Team has been retired the diagrams 55 of series 28 for the batters of the Home Team are then used in a similar manner for its half of the inning until it in turn is retired. The diagrams for the Visiting Team and the Home Team are thus used alternately for recording the plays until the conclusion of the game.

At the bottom of the board under "Play Markers" are circles 34 which would be colored to correspond to the markers used for signifying the play beside which they are shown. For the purpose of identification on this drawing these circles are designated by letters of the alphabet.

All markers used for recording the plays remain where originally located in diagrams 29 until the conclusion of the game so that the plays can be recapitulated and the record of any player determined. On form 21 at 35 and 36 are shown blocks for recording the runs made in each inning by each team.

Figure 5 and Figure 6 illustrate the preferred type of marker for recording the plays of the game and consists of a spherical head 40 and a short rounded end shaft 41. Markers with heads 40 of different distinctive colors, or color combinations and designs, for indicating the different types of plays are provided. The correct marker to use for indicating a specific type of play is shown under "Play Markers" on Figure 1 and Figure 3.

The circles 18 on Figure 1 and 34 on Figure 3, which are identified by letters of the alphabet, would actually be colored to correspond to the colors of the respective markers. For positioning in the scoring diagrams on the board illustrated by Figure 1 or Figure 3 the head 40 of the marker would be approximately three sixteenths of an inch in diameter. To facilitate the selection of the correct marker a container, divided into a number of compartments for separating the markers according to type, will be supplied. This container is not shown on the drawings.

Figure 7 and Figure 8 illustrate the numerical marker for indicating the number of the inning and consists of a round flat head 42, on which the numeral appears, and a short rounded end shaft 43. The marker with the appropriate numeral is positioned in one of holes 16 (Figure 1) or 33 (Figure 3) in or before the scoring diagram of the first batter of each inning. For use in the score board illustrated by Figure 1 or Figure 3 the head 42 of the marker would be approximately one quarter of an inch in diameter.

Figure 9, Figure 10 and Figure 11 illustrate examples of the cards from which are determined the plays of the simulated baseball game. On each of the cards, as shown on Figure 9 under "Batter" at 45, are two tabulated columns. In the column in the center of the card are listed the plays effected by the batter. In the column to the right opposite each entry in the center column is listed the result of the play if at the time two men were out, as indicated at 46, or a two men out alternate play as shown at 47. In the column under "Base Runners" at 48 are tabulated all of the possible conditions that can prevail as regards base runners from "None On" at 49 to "At 1B—2B—3B" at 50 and the disposition of the runners in accordance with the adjacent entries in the other two columns. There are sufficient cards in the deck so that the frequency of the listing, on different cards of the same play under the same conditions, will be in proportion to its actual occurrence as determined from the average of many actual games.

The score board illustrated by Figure 1 or Figure 3 is used in a similar manner and in conjunction with the same markers for recording the plays of the simulated game as described and tabulated above for the live game. For the purposes of this description of the simulated game the score board of Figure 1 will be referred to.

The game may be played as solitaire or with an opponent to represent the other team. If desired the line-ups of two favorite teams may be entered on the form 2 to add realism to the game.

The simulated game is played in the following manner. The cards, examples of which are illustrated by Figures 9, 10 and 11, are thoroughly shuffled and placed face down before the person who has chosen to be the "Manager" of the Visiting Team. He selects the top card and

referring to the column under "Base Runners" and opposite "None On" he notes the play under "Batter." This play represents the result of the first time at bat of the player who is first in the batting order of the Visiting Team. The manager in accordance with the tabulation on the score board under "Play Markers" selects the proper marker or markers (Figures 5 and 6) and by positioning them at the appropriate locations in diagram 8a records the play. For the second and subsequent batters the cards are drawn in sequence from the top of the pack and the play to be recorded for each batter is shown in the column under "Batter" opposite the entry in the tabulation under "Base Runners" in which is noted the conditions as regards base runners that prevail when the respective cards are drawn. In each case the play is recorded by the Manager on the diagram of the batter and the diagrams of any base runners if their positions are affected by the play. The Manager of the Visiting Team continues to draw cards and record the plays until three outs have been made. The numeral 2 marker (Figures 7 and 8) is then placed in the diagram of the Visiting Team batter who will be the first to bat in the second inning. All of the cards are then shuffled and drawn from in the same manner by the "Manager" of the Home Team and the results of these plays are recorded on the diagrams of the Home Team batters until three men are out. The Managers alternate in drawing cards for as many innings as has been agreed upon, at the end of which the team with the most runs is the winner.

What is claimed is:

1. A re-usable device for scoring baseball games in accordance with baseball rules, comprising, a structure including a board having spaces for accommodating pertinent data including a removable printed member attached to said board and having two sets of spaced designations for baseball players of the teams in their respective batting orders for the game, two spaced sets of columns of diagrams containing representations for scoring a baseball game, each set of player designations being located directly opposite each set of columns of diagrams, each column of diagrams containing a plurality of said diagrams for each player and being arranged in rows within a set of columns, a plurality of markers coded for definite indications of various plays in scoring a baseball game, legends on said board for identifying said plurality of markers, openings located in each of said diagrams representing each of the four bases and each of the nine fielding positions on a baseball playing field, also other openings associated with said diagrams for scoring other game data, said markers being adapted for fitting in any of said openings and for use in recording the entire sequence of plays in the complete game including the disposition of the batters as well as the substitution of players, the progress from base to base of any base runners and the plays involved as well as the defensive handling of the ball and other data, the diagrams in each of said columns of diagrams being utilized to record the plays resulting from the times at bat of the designated ball players, all of said appropriate markers being retained in said appropriate openings until the conclusion of said game, the combination of said board, player designations and markers being complete and sufficient for use in recording the part taken in every play of said game by each said ball player and adapted for continued re-use.

2. An arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said columns of diagrams is arranged in line with each said designation, with the successive diagrams in each of said columns of diagrams being utilized to record the sequence of plays resulting from successive times at bat of the respectively designated ball players.

3. An arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of diagrams on said board are schematic.

4. An arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of columns of separate diagrams are provided,

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5. An arrangement as recited in claim 1, wherein said diagrams simulate baseball playing fields.

6. A re-usable device for scoring baseball games in accordance with conventional baseball rules, comprising, a structure including a board having spaces for accommodating data pertinent to a baseball game including at least one provision for a designation for each player of two baseball teams, with the player designations being arranged in two spaced sets in the batting orders of the respective teams, a set of columns of diagrams on said board under each of the headings "Visiting Team" and "Home Team," with one of said columns of diagrams in each set of columns of diagrams being provided for each position in the batting order of the respective teams, each of said diagrams in said sets of columns of diagrams containing representations for scoring a baseball game, each of said diagrams having openings representing each of the nine fielding positions on a baseball playing field, each of said diagrams having openings representing each of the four bases on said baseball playing field, also other openings associated with said diagrams for scoring other game data, a plurality of markers coded for definite indications of various plays in scoring a baseball game, suitable legends on said board for identifying said plurality of markers, said markers being adapted for fitting individually into any of said openings in said diagrams and adapted for recording the entire sequence of plays in a complete baseball game, the number of diagrams in each column of diagrams being at least sufficient in an average baseball game to provide a separate diagram for scoring each turn at bat at the respective positions in the batting orders.

7. An arrangement as recited in claim 6, wherein one of said columns of diagrams is arranged in line with each said designation, with the successive diagrams in each of said columns being utilized to record the sequence of plays resulting from successive times at bat of the respectively designated ball players.

8. An arrangement as recited in claim 6, wherein said plurality of diagrams on said board are schematic.

9. An arrangement as recited in claim 6, wherein said diagrams simulate baseball playing fields.

10. For simulated baseball games to be scored in accordance with regular baseball rules, the combination of a re-usable device for scoring simulated baseball games in accordance with conventional baseball rules and direct reading chance means, said device having structure including a board having spaces for accommodating data pertinent to a baseball game including at least one provision for a designation for each player of two baseball

teams, with the player designations being arranged in two spaced sets in the batting orders of the respective teams, a set of columns of diagrams on said board under each of the headings "Visiting Team" and "Home Team," with one of said columns of diagrams in each set of columns of diagrams being provided for each position in the batting order of the respective teams, each of said diagrams in said sets of columns of diagrams containing representations for scoring a baseball game, each of said diagrams having openings representing each of the nine fielding positions on a baseball playing field, each of said diagrams having openings representing each of the four bases on said baseball playing field, also other openings associated with said diagrams for scoring other game data, a plurality of markers coded for definite indications of various plays in scoring a baseball game, suitable legends on said board for identifying said plurality of markers, said markers being adapted for fitting individually into any of said openings in said diagrams and adapted for recording the entire sequence of plays in a complete baseball game, the number of diagrams in each column of diagrams being at least sufficient in an average baseball game to provide a separate diagram for scoring each turn at bat at the respective positions in the batting orders, said chance means being adapted for direct reading to select a play suitable for conditions prevailing at any time in a simulated baseball game, the combination of said board, player designations, markers, and direct reading chance means being complete and sufficient for use in playing said baseball game.

11. An arrangement as recited in claim 10, wherein one of said columns of diagrams is arranged in line with each said designation, with the successive diagrams in each of said columns being utilized to record the sequence of plays resulting from successive times at bat of the respectively designated ball players.

12. An arrangement as recited in claim 10, wherein said plurality of diagrams in said board are schematic.

13. An arrangement as recited in claim 10, wherein a plurality of columns of separate diagrams are provided.

14. An arrangement as recited in claim 10, wherein said diagrams simulate baseball playing fields.

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