Dec. 3, 1968 L. D. BUCHSIEB 3,414,263

TABLE GAME SIMULATING A FOOTBALL CONTEST

Filed March 29, 1965

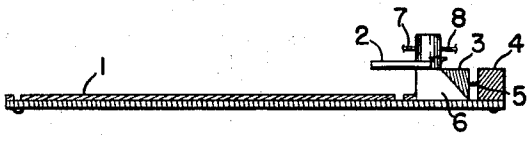
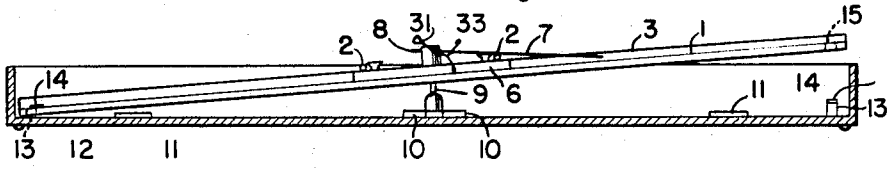


FIG. 1

FIG. 2



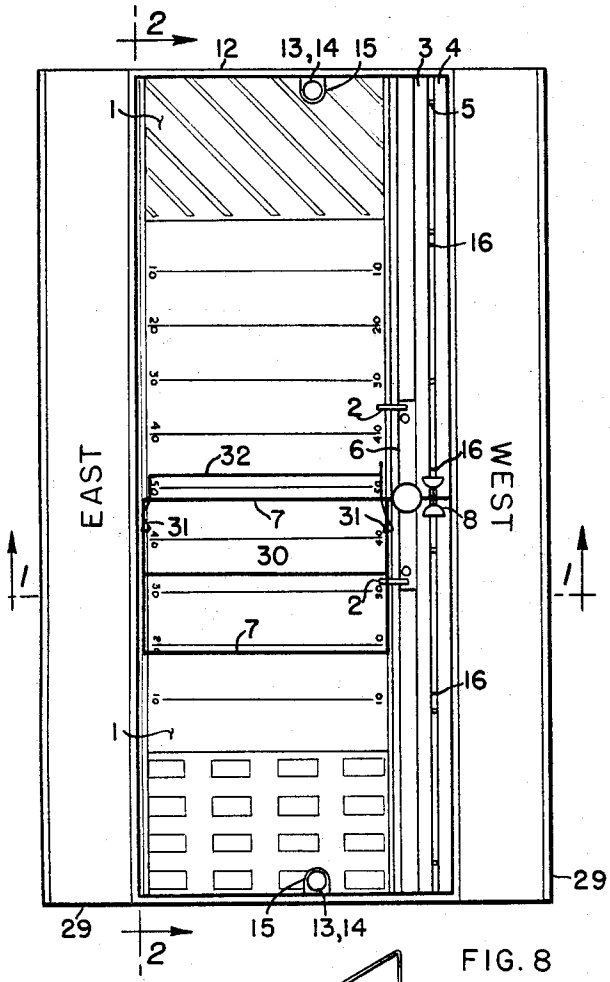


FIG. 8

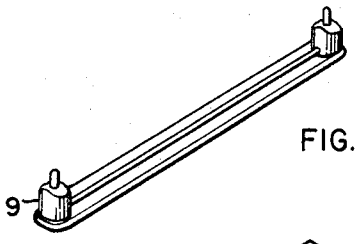


FIG. 3

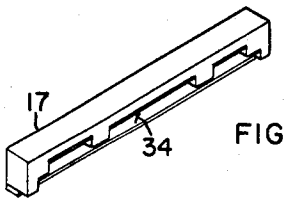


FIG. 4

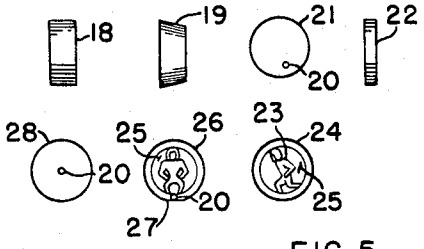


FIG. 5

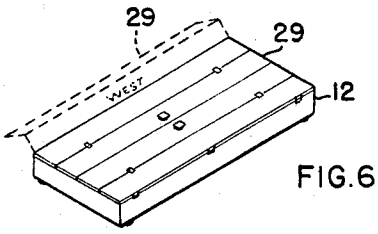


FIG. 6

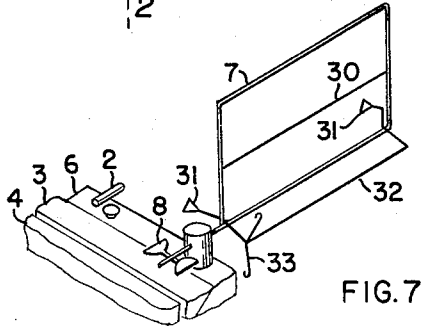


FIG. 7

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TABLE GAME SIMULATING A FOOTBALL CONTEST

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A game of skill for simulating a football contest between two opposing teams. An elongated plate has a playing surface simulating that of a football field, and a fulcrum means for selectively tilting the plate in one of two opposite directions. There are pluralities of offense and defense pieces suitable for free movement along the playing surface. A support means adjacent to but outside of the playing surface is slidable along the length thereof, and carries a retaining means for the offense pieces. This retaining means is pivotal about a transverse axis on the support and includes bar means spaced from and on one side of the pivot axis. Thus the retaining means is reversible by flipping it over substantially 180° when the plate is tilted in an opposite direction. The releasing means preferably includes a second retaining means pivotal about the transverse axis so as to permit release of separate groups of offense pieces at spaced intervals.

Summary of the invention

An important object of my invention is to provide components which when used together permit players to simulate the action of an actual football field.

A further object is to provide such devices which are easily understood and which can be conveniently played indoors under various circumstances and conditions by persons of all ages and abilities.

A still further object is to provide such devices as are simple and inexpensive to manufacture and easy to maintain.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

Description of the drawing

In the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this application, and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same.

FIGURE 1 is an end elevation of the playing surface and related apparatus.

FIGURE 2 is a side elevation of the invention showing the playing surface tilted for use.

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the fulcrum means.

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of the rack for positioning defense pieces.

FIGURE 5 are various views of the action pieces, called "men."

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of the container of the game.

FIGURE 7 is a perspective view showing the retaining means and release mechanism for the offense men.

FIGURE 8 is a top plan view of the playing surface and accessories.

Description of the preferred embodiment

In the drawing, wherein for purpose of illustration, it is shown a preferred embodiment of my invention, the numeral **12** is a boxlike container for my novel items. It may have a folding lid **29** which opens for a bleacher effect as shown in FIGURE 6. On the bottom thereof may be molded two parallel strips **10** which act as guides for retaining fulcrum means **9**. Two blocks **11** may also be

molded in the bottom of the container to steady the playing surface **1** when not in use.

Playing surface **1** may be provided with markings simulating a football field as illustrated in FIGURE 8. It and the container may be formed of wood, metal or synthetic plastic material. Fulcrum means **9** is preferably adjustable in height. It fits between guides **10** and contacts surface **1** at its mid-section whereby the surface will teeter-totter thereon. At each end of the inside base of the container is securing means **13** for retaining the surface in a tilted position. I prefer to use magnets for quick manipulation thereof. Metal disc **14** fits on the magnet **13** when not in use. Under these arrangements the surface is turned 180° when removed from the box and placed on the fulcrum means for play.

Included in my apparatus is base strip **4** suitable for retaining spiral springs **5**. Said base preferably extends the full length of the surface as illustrated. A braking or pressure member **3** is joined thereto by the opposite end of the spiral spring. A beveled surface of **3** contacts sliding support member **6**. Braking member **3** also extends the full length of the surface and is parallel to base strip **4**. A plurality of guide pins **16** may be associated therewith to insure alignment. Said support member **6** slides along surface **1**, clamped between the friction of member **3** which abuts member **6** under pressure of springs **5**, and abutment strip **3***a*. The function of support member **6** is that of supporting retaining means **7** of FIGURE 7. Such means is principally of wire frame construction shaped in a plurality of parallel bars **30** and **7**. Also, a pivotally and separately movable parallel bar **32** may be used in association therewith. Said bars retain the hereinafter described rolling pieces. An axle **34** is rotatably mounted in post **35** on member **6** with handle **8** for manually swinging the bars in the vertical position to release the rolling pieces. Stops **2** mounted on member **6** hold the retaining means **7** in a parallel spaced relationship with surface **1**. Lever arms **31** are secured to bar **32** independently of the other bars. Bar **32** is retained in spaced position relative to the playing surface by stand **33**.

For opposing "men" (defense) rack **17** may be used as a guide to their placement on surface **1**. This guide has spaces **34** therein to accept the hereinafter described defense men.

Simulated football players are shown in FIGURE 5. They include a plurality of defense men **26**. The optimum number thereof is eleven. These and all other pieces are preferably circular in shape and are preferably one inch in diameter. They may be formed of plastic, wood, metal or other suitable material. I prefer that some of the defense pieces have a short flat portion **27** at the base thereof provided with a small weight **20** whereby they tend to remain in a set position on tilted surface **1**. They may be solid discs or, as I prefer, rim shaped with a crouched token defense player positioned in space **25** as illustrated.

Opposing pieces may be solid disc shaped with weight **20** therein as shown at **28** of FIGURE 5. However, the best effect can be achieved by forming them of rim **24** with token man **28** in a running position in space **25**. I prefer to provide seven such offense line men, each of which is equal in weight to each defense piece. In addition thereto a plurality of offense backfield men may be provided. One may be thinner than the others. It may be a simulated quarterback **22**. Two offense pieces may have beveled edges **19**. These may be called halfbacks; they roll in an arc pattern. Appropriate markings will aid in the identification of these and all other pieces herein described. All other items have edges at right angles to face **18** and roll straight. A fullback may be provided which is 1¼ times the weight of the other pieces.

A fifth and alternate disc shaped piece may be provided with a counterweight **20** off center. See **21** of FIGURE 5. This piece may be positioned adjacent to a piece with beveled edge **19** with their faces in contact one with another. I have discovered that various patterns will result when the two pieces are released and rolled together on the tilted surface. The adjustable movement available in the counterbalanced offensive men makes the different "paths" of "runners."

The operation of the apparatus is as follows:

Surface **1** is placed in a tilted position. A player, in a limited time, places the offense pieces of FIGURE 5 on the means **7** in position of his choice. He designates the piece that is "the ballcarrier." An opposing player places his defense pieces, with the aid of rack **17**, in a parallel line facing the offense pieces. The rack is removed. A variable number of defensive "men" may be shifted to counter the offensive strategy. The offense player manually revolves handle **8**, lifting the bar and permitting his men to roll. With a finger he may simultaneously manipulate arm **31** to release barrier **32** or he may delay this action. The place where the "ballcarrier" stops or goes out of bounds marks the location to begin the next play as in actual football. Under suitable rules the defense player may "go on offense" by tilting surface **1** the opposite direction; rotating means **7** 180° to rest on the opposing stop **2** and changing "men."

It is to be understood that the form of my invention, herein shown and described, is to be taken as a preferred example of the same, and that various changes in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of my invention, or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a game of skill simulating a football game;

(a) an elongated plate provided with a playing surface having markings simulating the playing surface of a football field;

(b) a fulcrum means for tilting said plate selectively in one of two opposite directions about an axis disposed transversely of the length of said playing surface;

(c) a support means slidably mounted on said plate for sliding movement along a path adjacent to and outside the length of said playing field surface;

(d) a plurality of offense pieces suitable for free movement along said playing surface;

(e) a plurality of defense pieces adapted to remain in set position on said tilted plate except when struck by said offense pieces;

(f) a releasable offense piece retaining means overlying said playing field, and adapted to restrain said offensive pieces on said playing surface from free movement down the slope of said plate when tilted;

(g) said retaining means including a pivot axis means rotatably mounted on said support means and extending transversely of said playing field, and a retaining bar means fixed to and spaced from said pivot axis means on one side thereof for movement in an arcuate path upon rotation of said axis means, said retaining means thereby being reversible for either direction of said tilt of said elongated plate.

2. A game as set forth in claim **1**;

said releasable retaining means further including a separate retaining bar means pivotally mounted on said pivot axis means independently of said first bar means, separate groups of said offense pieces may be released at spaced intervals.

3. A game as set forth in claim **1**;

said support means being provided with a resilient friction means for holding said support means in adjusted position along said playing surface.

4. A game as set forth in claim **1**;

(a) said elongated plate being mounted in an elongated, relatively shallow box;

(b) said box having releasable retaining means in said box at opposite ends thereof for holding said elongated plate in a selected one of two opposite directions of tilt.

5. A game as set forth in claim **1**, said sliding support means including:

(a) an elongated abutment strip extending along said playing surface;

(b) an elongated pressure member spaced from said stop member;

(c) a support block slidably clamped between said stop member and said pressure member; and

(d) spring means biasing said pressure member in the direction of said stop member.

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