

March 8, 1949.

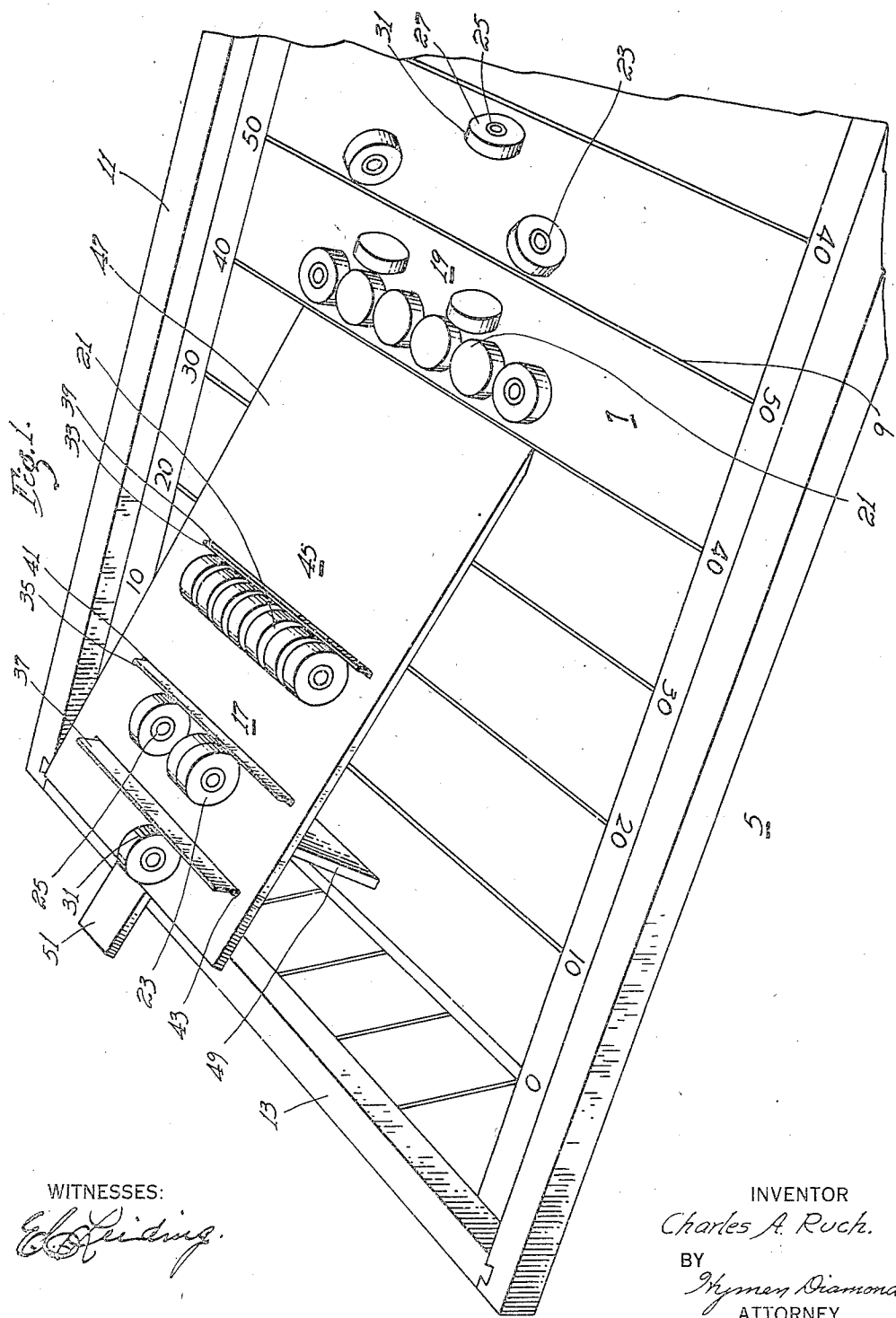
C. A. RUCH

2,463,909

GAME APPARATUS

Filed June 8, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

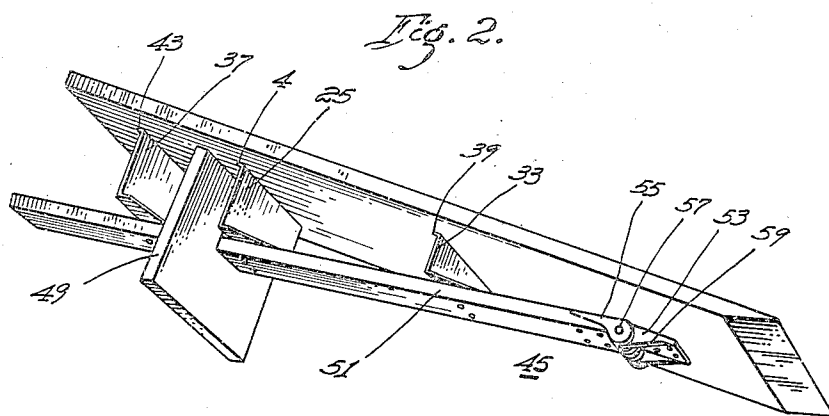
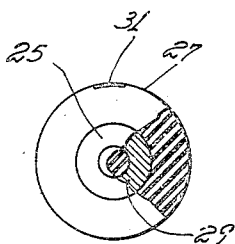


*Fig. 3.*

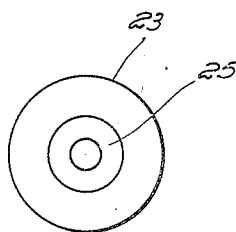


*Fig. 4.*

WITNESSES:

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,463,909

## GAME APPARATUS

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## 1. Claim. (Cl. 273-120)

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My invention relates to game apparatus and has particular relation to game apparatus simulating football.

Game apparatus simulating football constructed according to the teachings of the prior art is illustrated by the Badgerow Patent No. 1,958,358. In apparatus of this type, a surface marked off in a manner analogous to a football field is provided. A plurality of blocks are arrayed on the surface in a manner similar to a football team in defensive formation. An equal number of blocks simulating an offensive football team are arrayed behind a removable barrier on an incline plane. One of the offensive blocks is designated by the participant to whom they are assigned as ball carrier. When the barrier is released, the offensive blocks move down the incline plane under gravity. At the base of the plane, the offensive blocks strike the defensive blocks displacing them. Under the rules of the game, the ball is said to have advanced to the position at which the offensive ball carrier block stops.

In the prior art games only one removable barrier is provided on the incline plane. The offensive blocks are arrayed in a solid formation behind this barrier, the blocks representing the back field resting against the blocks representing the line and the line blocks and back-field blocks being laterally in contact. For all practical purposes, the offensive blocks can thus be arrayed on only a few formations, which do not differ materially. The participants soon learn this part and determine the few defensive arrangements required to minimize the advance of the ball carrier blocks. Thereafter, there is substantially no variety to the game. The offensive and defensive blocks are arrayed in the same formations and impact of the offensive blocks against the defensive blocks produces anticipated results. The game becomes monotonous.

It is an object of my invention to provide football game apparatus in the use of which a wide variety of offensive and defensive formations shall be available.

Another object of my invention is to provide football game apparatus characterized by wide variety in the results produced by the impact of the defensive and offensive game blocks.

A further object of my invention is to provide football game apparatus which shall simulate actual football in the respect that the information as to the identity of the ball carrier shall be withheld from the defensive participant.

A still further object of my invention is to provide football game apparatus which shall simulate actual football in the availability of a maneuver analogous to a forward pass.

In accordance with my invention, the incline plane of which the offensive blocks are arrayed

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is provided with a plurality of spaced barriers. Behind one barrier, the blocks corresponding to the back-field are arrayed in any desired formation. The offensive blocks may be arrayed in a wide variety of formations. The barriers are released simultaneously so that the offensive blocks charge as a unit in a manner similar to a football team.

In accordance with a further aspect of my invention, one of the offensive blocks is marked to indicate a ball carrier. The mark is of such character that it may be hidden from the view of the defensive participant by the barriers or the other blocks. The blocks corresponding to the back-field and the ends of a football team are also marked characteristically so as to identify eligible forward-pass receivers.

The novel features that I consider characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood from the following description of a specific embodiment when read in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective illustrating an embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a view in perspective illustrating a set of barriers constructed in accordance with my invention;

Fig. 3 is a view in elevation of a ball carrier game block in accordance with my invention; and

Fig. 4 is a view of a game block corresponding to a prospective forward-pass receiver in accordance with my invention.

The apparatus shown in Fig. 1 comprises an elongated rectangular container 5 having the approximate form of a miniature stadium. The base 7 of the container is a plane surface subdivided by lines 9 like a football field. Rectangular side and end walls 11 and 13, respectively, extend from the base. The end walls 13 are slidably secured in slots 15 in the side walls 9 so that they (the end walls) may be removed with facility during the game. The side and end walls of the container 5 may be composed of any suitable material such as wood or plastic. The side and end walls may be embellished so that they have the appearance of the grand stands and bleachers of a football stadium. The base 7 of the container may be composed of canvas or other suitable material which may be folded. With the end walls removed, the container may be thus collapsed into a narrow package. The base 7 of the container may also be composed of wood or plastic and painted green to resemble a football gridiron.

One set of eleven game blocks is provided for each participant in the game. The game blocks

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are preferably small circular cylinders similar to checker pieces. However, rectangular or cubical blocks may be provided in lieu of the circular blocks. Preferably, the sets of game blocks are colored differently. For example, one set 17 may be colored red and the other set 19 black.

The bases of five of the blocks 21 of each set are of the solid color of the blocks. On the bases of five blocks 23 of the remaining six there is a small ring 25 of a different color than the color of the remainder of the block; for example, the ring 25 on the black blocks 19 may be yellow and the ring 25 on the red blocks 17 may be green. The blocks so identified correspond to the ends and the back-field of a football team, five of the six eligible pass receivers. The remaining block 27 is provided with a ring insert 29 of a heavy material such as lead and is heavier than the others. The heavier block is also identified by a colored ring 25 as a back-field block and by a line 31 extending across a portion of its circumference as ball carrier.

The defensive blocks are arrayed on the base 7 of the container 5 in the formation of a defensive football team. The offensive blocks are arrayed along a plurality of spaced barriers 33, 35 and 37 extending through transverse slots 39, 41 and 43, respectively, in an incline plane 45. The plane 45 comprises a flat surface 47 with a supporting block 49 extending from its under side near one of its ends. The plane 45 is disposed on the base 7 of the container 5 and is supported on the lower edge of the block 49 and on the edge of plane which is remote from the block.

The barriers 33, 35 and 37 are secured to a lever arm 51 which extends from a bracket 53 of a cross-section secured near the supporting edge of the plane. At the end at which the lever 51 is secured, it is provided with eyelets 55 which are secured to each of its sides. A pin 57 extending between the sides of the brackets passes through holes in the eyelets and holds the lever 51. A spiral spring 59 is wound around the pin 57. One end of the spring 59 is secured to the base of the bracket 53 and the other end of the spring to the lever 51. The spring 59 is wound so that it urges the lever 51 upward so that the barriers 33, 35 and 37 extend through the slots 39, 41 and 43 across the surface of the incline plane 45. The portions of the barriers extending above the plane are of heights gradually increasing towards the upper end of the plane so that when the lever is moved downward, the barriers are simultaneously removed from the surface of the plane and the game blocks are simultaneously freed to roll or slide down the surface.

The game is played by two participants. One participant is assigned the eleven blocks of one color and the other the eleven blocks of the other color. A coin is tossed to determine which participant will be the first to be on the offensive. Once this fact is determined, the incline plane is arrayed with its lower edge on one "40 yard line," 10 of the offensive blocks are arrayed along the middle barrier 35 and the ball carrier block on the third barrier 37. The defensive blocks are arrayed in "kick-off receiving" formation with no more than 5 blocks at the "50 yard line" and the others behind them. The "kick-off" occurs when the barrier is released. The first down after "kick-off" occurs at the point where the offensive carrier block stops after "kick-off."

During play following the "kick-off" the blocks 17 on the offensive are then arrayed against the barriers 33, 35 and 37 on the incline plane 45.

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The identity of the ball carrier block may be hidden from the defensive participant by maintaining its identifying mark 31 below the barrier 37 at which it rests. The participant to whom the defensive blocks 19 are assigned arrays his blocks at the foot of the incline plane 45 in defensive formation.

Before the barriers are released, the position of the blocks on the offensive may be changed. The defensive participant may change the position of his blocks to correspond to the changes in the offensive blocks. The barrier is released suddenly in the same manner as a football is snapped in an actual football game. If the participant to whom the offensive blocks is assigned so desires, he may elect to toss a forward pass. In this event, he retains the ball carrier block until after the offensive blocks are released. He then tosses the ball carrier block into the group of blocks. If the ball carrier block strikes a block identified as an eligible ball receiver, the forward pass is successfully complete. If the ball carrier block strikes a defensive block, an interception is said to have occurred. If neither event occurs the pass is unsuccessful and one down is charged against the offensive participant.

If a charge is to take place near one or the other ends of the container, the end wall 13 on one side is removed and the incline plane 45 arranged with its forward edge along the line of play and its rear portion outside of the container.

Each participant is given four tries at achieving goal; causing its ball carrier block to cross the zero line 9 at the remote end of the surface 7. If he fails, the other participant takes over at the point of failure. If rectangular blocks are used, the rules may be changed to provide for four tries at achieving a predetermined distance as in actual football rather than goal.

Although I have shown and described a certain specific embodiment of my invention, I am fully aware that many modifications thereof are possible. My invention, therefore, is not to be restricted except insofar as is necessitated by the prior art and by the spirit of the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

A projecting platform for game blocks comprising an elongated plane surface having a plurality of transverse slots near one end thereof and a support positioned adjacent to the under surface of said platform so that it normally lies in a position substantially parallel to said under surface and means for moving said support so that a portion thereof lies in a position spaced from said under surface, said portion of said support having secured thereto on the side facing said under surface a plurality of plates extending substantially perpendicular to said support and aligned with said slots, said plates projecting through said slots in said first-named position of said support and being movable so that they may be maintained with the upper edges thereof parallel to said slots in the plane of said surface or below said surface as said support is moved from said first-named to said second named position.

CHARLES A. RUCH.

#### REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

#### UNITED STATES PATENTS

| Number    | Name     | Date        |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| 1,958,358 | Badgerow | May 8, 1934 |