Aug. 4, 1931. H. GOLDSMITH 1,817,364

TACKLING AND BLOCKING DUMMY FOR FOOTBALL PRACTICE

Filed Sept. 18, 1928

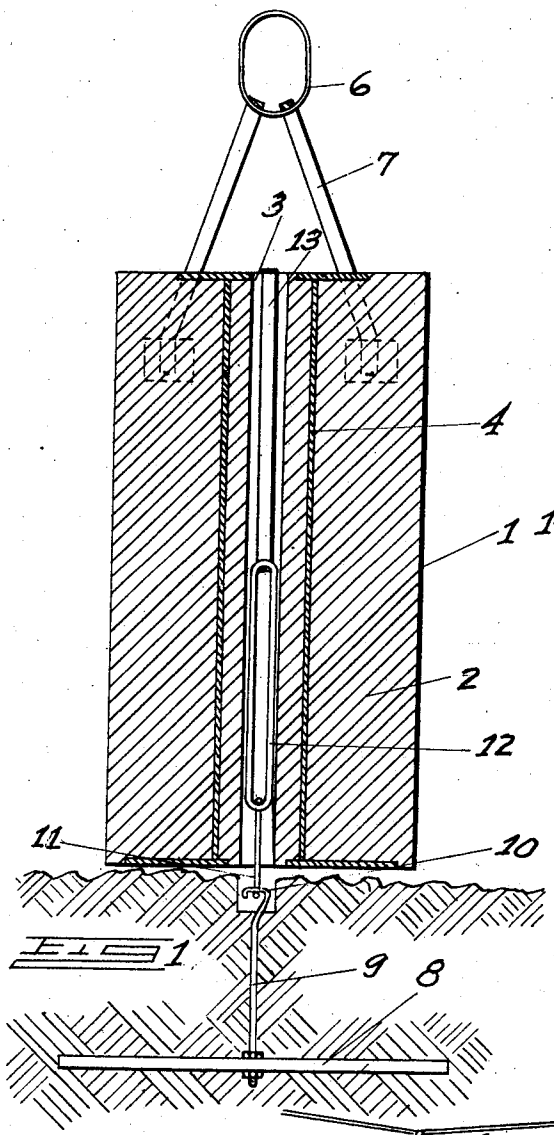


Fig 1

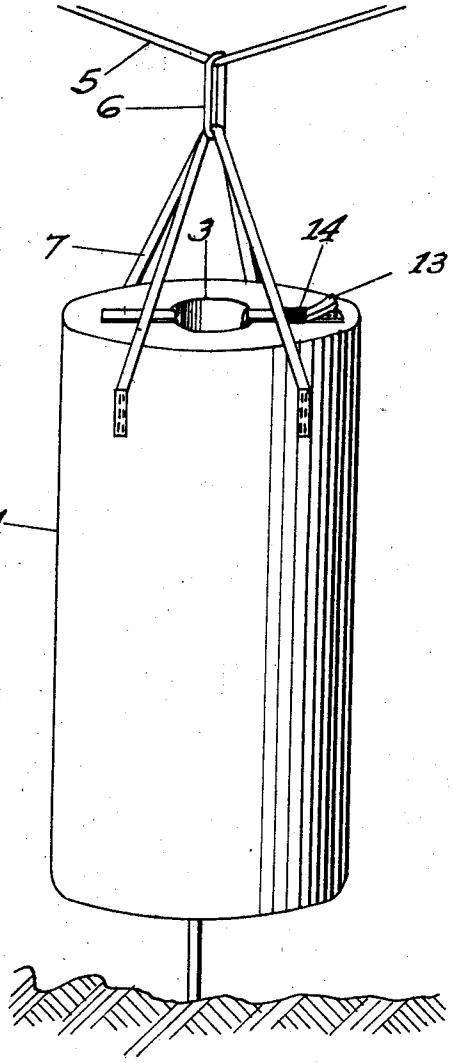


Fig 2

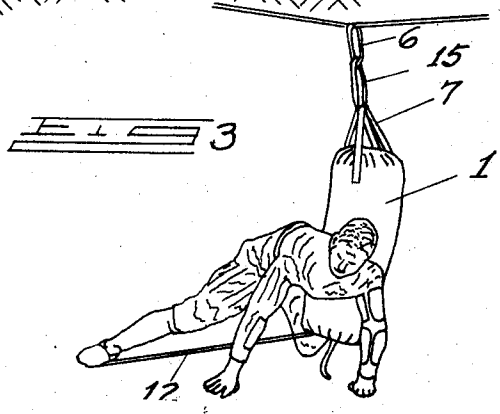


Fig 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TACKLING AND BLOCKING DUMMY FOR FOOTBALL PRACTICE

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My invention relates to tackling and blocking dummies such as may be used for football practice.

With the prominence and importance which the game of football has assumed in recent years a great number of different devices for use in practice have been evolved. Tackling dummies, suspended from wires have been in use for a number of years and blocking dummies which tend to resist the impact of a player against them have also been used quite extensively. A tackling dummy, being suspended from above tends to give at the base so that the effect of an opposing player being tackled and thrown off his feet is achieved. Blocking dummies, on the other hand, tend to topple over from the top and are firmly held at the base so that the effect is obtained of a player standing firmly on his feet as he would in interfering or blocking a play.

It is the object of my invention to provide a dummy, which in accordance with the way the apparatus for supporting the dummy is set, may be used either as a tackling dummy or a blocking dummy or both. It is further my object to provide an overhead suspension system and an anchoring system for resiliently holding the dummies at their bases, which systems may be used singly or conjointly.

The above and other objects to which reference will be made in the ensuing disclosure I accomplish by that certain combination and arrangement of parts of which I have disclosed a preferred modification.

Referring to the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a preferred type of blocking and tackling dummy shown in position being supported both at the base and top.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the dummy shown in section in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective view showing how the dummy is affected by the impact of a player's body against it.

The dummy is formed of a cylindrical casing 1 of canvas or the like filled with some soft filler-like sawdust, as is indicated at 2. The casing is made with a hole 3 extending down through it and in order to stiffen the casing a fibre shell 4 or tube is disposed within the casing prior to or during the filling. After inserting the tube 4 and filling the casing with sawdust the cover is secured at the top. The casing may be suspended from a cable 5 by a ring 6 which is secured to the upper portion of the dummy with straps 7.

Anchored under the ground I have shown a base plate 8, which in this instance is a board, having a hook bolt 9 secured in the base. The hooked end 10 of the bolt extends up through a hole in the ground. The upper end of the bolt is preferably several inches below the surface of the ground so that there will be no danger of players tripping on the hooks. The dummy has a strap 11 which may be secured to the hook. The strap is secured to an elastic band 12 which permits the dummy to give resiliently with the impact of a player's body against it as is suggested by the sketch in Figure 3. So that the desired tension of the resilient member may be obtained I have secured the upper part of the band 12 to the top of the dummy with a strap 13 which may be secured in desired position in a buckle 14.

While a flexible band has been found to permit a desired resilience to the mounting of the base it will be entirely practical to replace the flexible band with a coiled spring or other suitable resilient member. A further modification of the specific arrangement shown may be achieved by inserting a flexible band connecting the straps 7, with the ring 6 as is indicated at 15 in Figure 3. The dummy is normally used supported on its own base.

In using the dummy practically any type of play can be practiced. If for example the players are practicing tackling, the strap 11 may be disengaged from the hook and the effect of a dummy suspended from its top may be acquired. If the players are practicing blocking the top support may be released and the dummy held only at the base. For other types of play both the top and base may be secured as indicated.

I am aware that in the past it has been suggested to attach a rope with a counterbalanced weight to the base of a tackling dummy so that the weight will exert a force

opposed to the displacement of the dummy, but all such arrangements I disclaim as a resilient support is essential to the successful operation of my invention. With the base of the dummy held resiliently with a flexible member attached to the top, as I have described, the stronger the impact of a player hurling his body against the dummy, the stronger will be the tendency for the dummy to rebound. Thus if a player does not throw his weight squarely against the dummy, it will rebound and slip by him much as a player would do in actual play.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A football tackling and blocking dummy comprising a stuffed cylindrical casing having a rigid tubular reinforcement extending through said casing, a flexible member extending through said tubular reinforcement having means for attachment to an anchor, and a resilient member connected to said flexible member.

2. A football tackling and blocking dummy comprising a stuffed cylindrical casing having a rigid tubular reinforcement extending through said casing, a flexible member extending through said tubular reinforcement having means for attachment to an anchor, and a resilient member connected to said flexible member, and means for adjusting the tension of said resilient member.

3. A football tackling and blocking dummy comprising a stuffed cylindrical casing having a rigid tubular reinforcement extending through said casing, a flexible member extending through said tubular reinforcement having means for attachment to an anchor, and a resilient member connected to said flexible member, and another flexible member supporting said dummy and secured to the top of said dummy.

4. A football tackling and blocking dummy comprising a stuffed casing having a passage extending therethrough, a tubular reinforcement extending through said passage, a flexible member extending through said tubular reinforcement provided with means for attachment to an anchor, a resilient member connected to said flexible member, and means for restraining free movement of the upper end of said dummy.

HUGO GOLDSMITH.