



US006546924B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Battersby et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,546,924 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Apr. 15, 2003**

(54) **BALL THROWING MACHINE AND METHOD FOR PROFILING PITCHES**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/776,659**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 5, 2001**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2001/0018912 A1 Sep. 6, 2001

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 09/259,722, filed on Mar. 1, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,182,649.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **F41B 4/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **124/78**

(58) **Field of Search** 124/6, 78; 473/451

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A ball-throwing machine is provided which may be used for throwing baseballs, softballs and the like. The machine includes a power head having at least two and preferably three coating wheels for propelling a ball toward a batter to simulate a pitch. Three AC motors and companion motor drives are provided for causing the wheels to rotate at predetermined speeds. The motor drives include dynamic braking circuits to permit rapid deceleration of the wheels. A pair of linear actuators is provided to permit the power head to be moved to predetermined horizontal and vertical positions. A programmable controller is included for individually controlling the rotational speed of each individual wheel, the horizontal position of the power head and the vertical position of the power head. A smart card reader may be employed for programming of the controller and the machine is adapted to be used in conjunction with a video display to simulate the actual pitching of a baseball by a pitcher. The machine is able to interchangeably deliver pitches of different types to different locations at different speeds with less than ten-second intervals between pitches.

6 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

