Jan. 8, 1929.

1,698,012

G. W. CRUDEN

ATHLETIC GARMENT

Filed Dec. 22, 1927

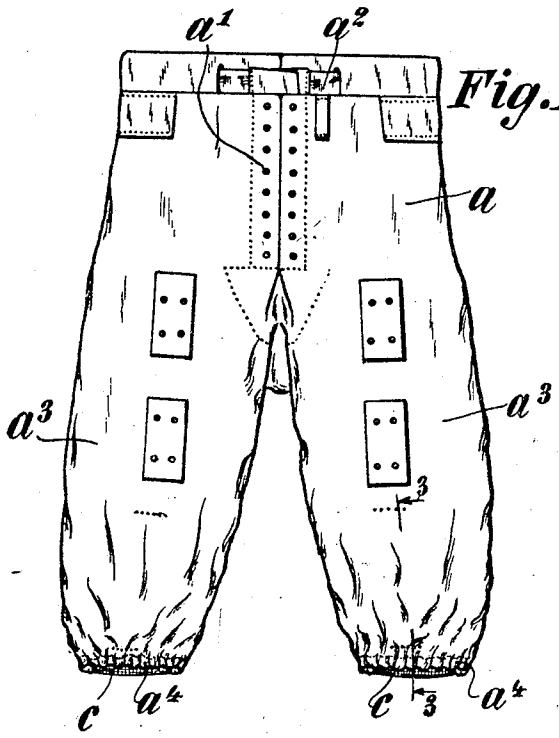


Fig. 1

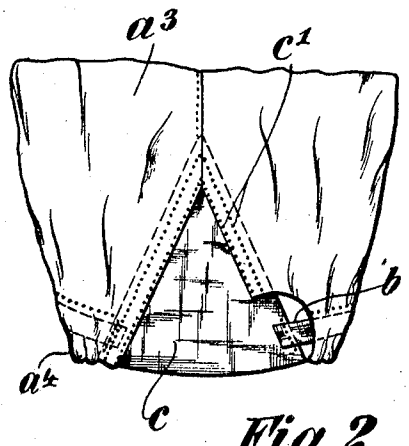


Fig. 2

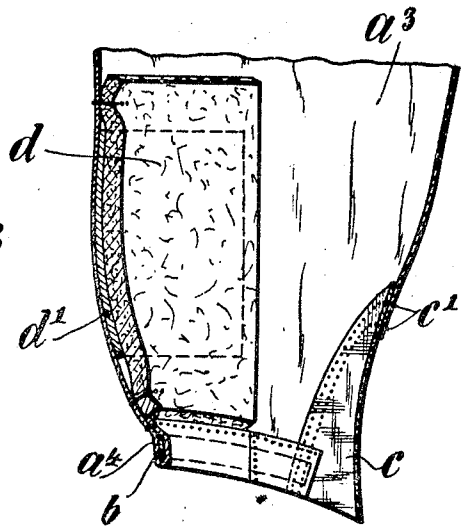


Fig. 3

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Patented Jan. 8, 1929. 1,698,012

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ATHLETIC GARMENT.

Application filed December 22, 1927. Serial No. 241,757.

The present invention relates to athletic pants of knee length wherein the knee portion thereof is provided with a protective padding. The garments to which this invention is designed to apply are football pants, although it may be used in other garments where it is desired to attain the same objects.

It will be readily understood that great freedom of movement is very essential in the game of football and at the same time the garments worn by the players must be supplied with protective padding. Heretofore the padding has caused the garments to be cumbersome and ill-fitting.

The present invention has for an object the provision of a garment with a small knee which conforms closely to the knee of the player while running or standing and also gives him great freedom of movement in getting down, kicking, etc.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent as the description proceeds and reference will now be had to the accompanying drawings for a more detailed description of the invention.

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation showing the knee pants constructed in accordance with the present invention and provided with an elastic insert at the rear of the knee portion thereof.

Figure 2 is a rear view, partly broken away, showing the construction of the knee, and insert therein, in greater detail.

Figure 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring to the above figures of the drawings, a indicates, in this instance, a pair of football pants provided with the usual lacing means a', belt a^2 and leg portions a^3.

At the knee of each leg portion a hem a^4 is formed through which an elastic band b is drawn. This serves to constrict the opening for the leg and cause the lower extremity of of the knee portion to fit closely to the calf or knee. In garments, as now manufactured, this elastic band constitutes the only means for holding the garment against the leg. As a result, the player is easily tackled and the garment is loose fitting and clumsy. It is desirable that the garment fit as tightly as possible without impairing the freedom of movement of the player, and it is particularly desirable that the knee portion thereof be small. Accordingly, a V-shaped elastic insert c is provided at the rear of the knee portion. It is inserted by cutting out a V-shaped notch in the rear of the knee of the garment, the apex of the notch pointing upwardly and the elastic sewed in at c' as shown in Figure 2.

The elastic band b is sewed to either side of the insert c and, in this manner, the complete elasticity is afforded around the knee. A conventional form of padding d is shown as secured to the front of the knee portion of the garment and a re-enforcing plate d' provided between the garment and the pad. The garment is cut so that no canvas is under the insert and, in this manner, the insert is free to stretch to accommodate any padding that is placed about the knee.

The above construction enables a knee pad to be used with the garment and yet not destroy the characteristic small knee which this elastic insert affords. As the knee pad worn in football is quite large, the garment has heretofore been made considerably oversize in order that such a pad may be accommodated. This added canvas which has heretofore been required in the garment is dispensed with by the present invention, since the garment can be made the normal size due to the capability of the V-shaped insert to accommodate the knee pad. The nature of this insert enables the garment to stretch, not only at the lower extremity of the knee, but a considerable distance up from the bottom. All bagging which has been characteristic of the old garment due to the stretching of the band at the knee only, is thus eliminated, by the provision of an elastic insert as described above.

The invention is not to be limited by the specific description and drawings presented herewith, but only in accordance with the scope as set forth in the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

An athletic garment of the character described comprising leg portions of knee length and formed of non-elastic material, a V-shaped elastic insert formed at the rear of the knee portion, the apex thereof extending upwardly from the lower edge of the material, and an elastic band secured at its ends to the base of the insert and extending around the knee, whereby the entire knee portion will yield to receive padding.

This specification signed this 20th day of December, A. D. 1927.

GEORGE W. CRUDEN.