W. P. WHITLEY.

FOOTBALL TROUSERS.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 7, 1921.

1,406,794. Patented Feb. 14, 1922.

Fig. 1

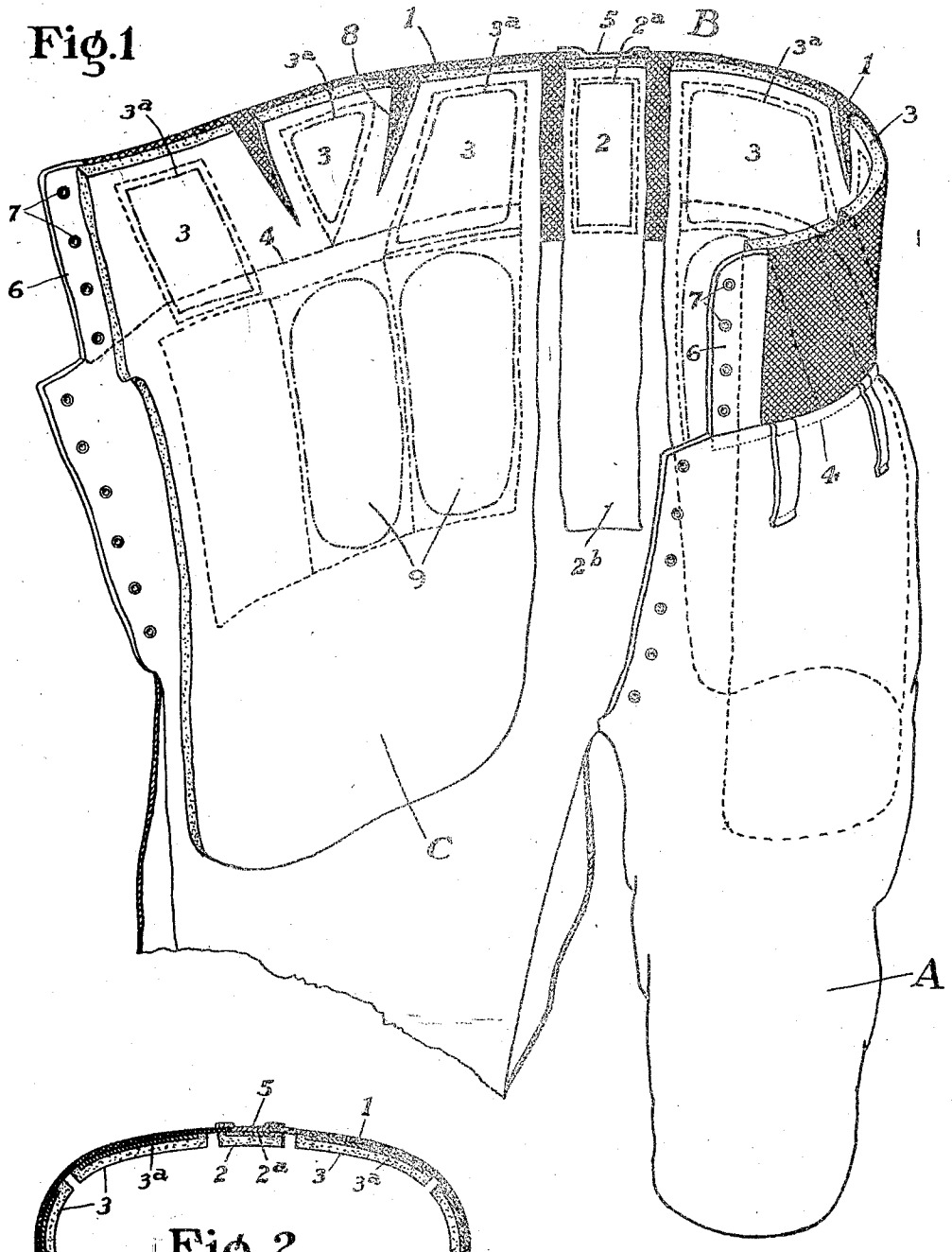


Fig. 2

INVENTOR
WILLIAM P. WHITLEY.

BY Bakewell & Church
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM P. WHITLEY, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR TO RAWLINGS MFG. CO., OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, A CORPORATION OF MISSOURI.

FOOTBALL TROUSERS.

1,406,794. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 14, 1922.

Application filed February 7, 1921. Serial No. 443,053.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM P. WHITLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Football Trousers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to foot ball trousers.

The main object of my invention is to provide a pair of foot ball trousers that will protect the kidneys and portions of the spine and ribs of the wearer without restricting or interfering with the natural movements of the wearer's body.

Another object is to provide a pair of foot ball trousers that are equipped with hip pads of novel construction that are rigid enough to afford considerable protection to the wearer's hips, but which will conform approximately to the shape of the wearer's hips. Other objects and desirable features of my invention will be hereinafter pointed out.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of a pair of foot ball trousers constructed in accordance with my invention, showing one leg of the trousers broken away so as to more clearly illustrate the construction of the pads; and

Figure 2 is a sectional view, taken horizontally through the pad at the upper end of the trousers which protects the wearer's kidneys, hips and spine.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate the preferred form of my invention, A designates a pair of foot ball trousers, and B designates a pad projecting upwardly above the waist band of the trousers for protecting the wearer's kidneys and the lower portions of the spine and ribs, said pad B being composed of a number of substantially rigid sections that are flexibly connected together in such a manner that the pad B as an entirety will snugly embrace the portion of the wearer's body above the hips and protect same without interfering with or restricting the natural movements of the wearer's body. The pad B can be formed in various ways without departing from the spirit of my invention, but I prefer to form it from a flexible or elastic band having a number of substantially rigid pad sections combined with same in such a manner that said sections can move independently of each other sufficiently to cause the pad as an entirety to adapt itself to the portion of the wearer's body which it surrounds or embraces.

In the form of my invention herein shown the pad B is composed of a flexible band 1, preferably of elastic webbing, provided with a spine pad 2 that extends over the lower part of the wearer's spine so as to protect same, and two groups of pads 3 arranged at opposite sides of the spine pad so as to protect the wearer's kidneys and lower ribs. The flexible band 1 is secured to the waist band or upper edge portion of the trousers by one or more rows of stitches 4, and instead of making said band continuous, I prefer to form it in two pieces joined together by an inflexible or unyielding portion 5, such, for example, as a piece of fabric that is stitched to the spine pad 2. The band 1 is provided at its free ends with flaps 6 equipped with eyelets 7 through which a lacing can be passed so as to cause the pad B to snugly embrace the portion of the wearer's body above the hips. The rows of stitches 4 that connect the pad B to the waist band or upper edge portion of the trousers A preferably terminate at a point some distance to either side of the spine pad 2, so that said spine pad and the portion of the band 1 immediately adjacent said spine pad will not be directly connected to the waist band of the trousers, thereby tending to eliminate the possibility of the pad B tearing away from the trousers when the wearer bends forwardly.

The pad sections 2 and 3 of the pad B are preferably formed from pieces of heavy felt secured by rows of stitching, or in any other preferred manner to the band of elastic webbing 1 and each provided with a substantially rigid stiffening device formed preferably from a piece of sheet fibre positioned between the felt portion of the pad section and the band of elastic webbing 1, the reference character 2^a designating the rigid stiffening device of the spine pad and the reference characters 3^a designating the rigid stiffening devices of the pad sections 3. The side pad sections 3 are spaced away from the spine pad 2 and each group of side pad sections is formed preferably from a single piece of heavy felt or other suitable material provided with diagonally-disposed or oppo-

sitely-inclined slits 8 extending downwardly from the upper edge of same, as shown in Figure 1, thus forming a center section of substantially V shape in general outline. It will of course, be understood that the particular shape of the pad sections 2 and 3 is immaterial, so long as said pad sections are of such form and are combined with the flexible or elastic band 1 in such a manner that said pad sections can move sufficiently relatively to each other to not retard or interfere with the natural movements of the wearer's body.

The trousers are provided with hip pads C which are formed preferably by depending portions of the pieces of felt which constitute the side sections 3 of the pad B at the upper edge of the trousers, each of said hip pads C being provided with a plurality of substantially rigid stiffening devices 9 formed conveniently from pieces of sheet fibre arranged in pockets on the rear side of same, as shown in Figure 1. By constructing the hip pads in this manner said pads afford considerable protection to the wearer's hips, and as they conform approximately to the shape of the hips, due, of course, to the fact that the stiffening devices consist of separate pieces or sections 9, said hip pads will not interfere with the natural movements of the wearer's body. Moreover, as the hip pads C are suspended from the elastic band 1 that snugly embraces the portion of the wearer's body above the hips, said pads C will cling to the hips more perfectly than if they were stitched to the seat portions of the trousers. I also prefer to provide the spine pad 2 with an integral depending portion 2^b that extends downwardly below the waist band of the trousers.

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

1. A pair of foot ball trousers provided at their upper ends with an attached kidney, rib and spine pad composed of a number of substantially rigid sections connected together by elastic material.

2. A pair of foot ball trousers provided with an attached kidney, spine and rib pad that projects upwardly above the waist band of the trousers and which is composed of an elastic band having a number of substantially rigid pad sections combined with same in such a manner that said pad sections can move sufficiently with relation to each other to not restrict or interfere with the natural movements of the wearer's body.

3. A pair of foot ball trousers provided with an attached pad projecting upwardly above the waist band portion of the trousers and composed of a number of separate pad sections equipped with substantially rigid stiffening devices and connected together by elastic webbing.

4. A pair of foot ball trousers provided at their upper edge with an attached upwardly projecting, elastic band that is adapted to be drawn snugly around the portion of the wearer's body above the hips, said band being equipped with a plurality of spaced pad sections each of which is composed of soft material, and a substantially rigid stiffening element.

5. A pair of foot ball trousers having a flexible band secured to the upper edge portion of same, a spine pad secured to said band, two groups of pad sections arranged on said band at opposite sides of said spine pad, and pieces of substantially rigid sheet material interposed between said band and pads for stiffening said pads.

6. A pair of foot ball trousers provided at their upper end with an elastic band that is adapted to be drawn snugly around the portion of the wearer's body above the hips, stiffening elements of substantially rigid sheet material combined with said band and capable of moving relatively to each other, and a pad associated with each of said stiffening elements.

7. A pair of foot ball trousers having a flexible band of elastic webbing attached to the upper edge portion of same, pieces of heavy felt secured to the inner side of said band, a plurality of spaced stiffening elements interposed between said band and pieces of felt, and open spaces between said pieces of felt located intermediate said stiffening elements.

8. A pair of foot ball trousers having a flexible band of elastic webbing or the like secured to the upper edge portion of the trousers by rows of stitches that terminate at points on either side of the back seam of the trousers, a spine pad secured to the inner side of said band at such a point that it laps over the lower part of the spine, and pieces of felt secured to the inner side of said band at opposite sides of said pad and each provided with a plurality of oppositely inclined slits that divide same into a plurality of sections that are capable of moving relatively to each other.

9. A pair of foot ball trousers provided at their upper end with an attached kidney, spine and rib pad composed of an elastic band combined with a plurality of substantially rigid, spaced sections which are capable of moving relatively to each other sufficiently to not interfere with the natural movements of the wearer's body, and hip pads suspended from said kidney, spine and rib pad and arranged on the inside of the trousers.

10. A pair of foot ball trousers provided at their upper end with an attached elastic

band that is adapted to be drawn snugly around the portion of the wearer's body above the hips, a plurality of separated pad sections combined with said band and equipped with substantially rigid stiffening elements, and hip pads suspended from said pad and each provided with a plurality of separated stiffening elements that can move sufficiently with relation to each other to cause said hip pads to conform approximately to the shape of the wearer's hips.

11. A pair of foot ball trousers having a band of elastic webbing permanently attached to the upper edge portion of the trousers and provided at its free ends with flaps through which a lacing can be inserted so as to draw said band snugly around the portion of the wearer's body above the hips, pieces of heavy felt secured to the inner side of said band and extending downwardly over the wearer's hips, and stiffening elements combined with said pieces of felt for protecting the wearer's kidneys, ribs and hips and so arranged that they can move relatively to each other and thus not interfere with the natural movements of the wearer's body.

WILLIAM P. WHITLEY.