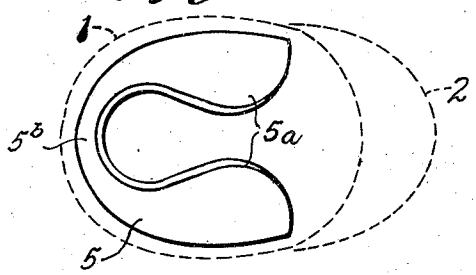
May 25, 1948. E. MAURO 2,442,052

HEAD-PROTECTING CAP

Filed Nov. 9, 1944

Fig. 2.



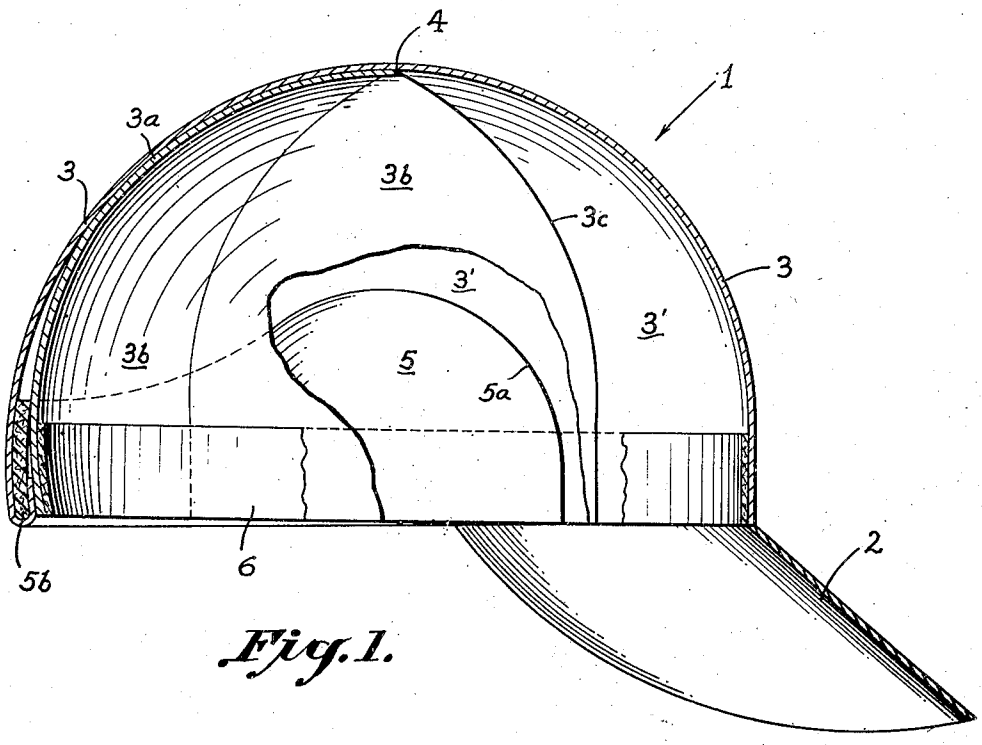


Fig. 1.

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Patented May 25, 1948 2,442,052

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,442,052

HEAD-PROTECTING CAP

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Application November 9, 1944, Serial No. 562,623

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—3)

1

I have invented an improved cap for baseball players; and more particularly a protective cap to prevent injury if a batter is hit on the head with a ball thrown by the pitcher.

An object of the invention is to provide a cap which shields the head and enables a batter to have a feeling of safety and complete confidence when he takes his stand at the home plate.

Another object is to provide a ball player's cap which is inexpensive to produce, and easy to wear. It comprises a cap with internal reinforcing means at both sides, rigid and shaped to fit the side of the head and completely enclosed by the material of which the cap is made.

Other objects and advantages of the invention are more fully set forth in the ensuing description and drawings, and the novel features of the improvement are defined in the appended claims. The details, however, and the arrangement of parts and members may be changed without altering the essential character of the invention or exceeding the scope and meanings of the terms in which the claims are expressed.

On said drawings:

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal view of a head-protecting cap according to this invention; and

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the protecting member on a reduced scale and showing the cap structure in dotted lines.

The cap is shown at 1, with a visor 2 for the eyes. It is made of any suitable cloth or the like, with outer and inner layers 3 and 3*a*.

To form outer layer 3, pieces 3' approximately sector-shaped are sewed together along their side or radial edges. Three such pieces for example are used on each side, making six in all. They all meet at a central point 4 on top. The inner layer or part 3*a* is made of four such pieces 3*b*. It extends over the rear and sides, but not the front of the cap, terminating at lines indicated at 3*c*, adjacent opposite ends of the visor. The two layers form a pocket in the cap, having openings at said lines 3*c*.

Within this pocket provided by the layers 3 and 3*a* is a protecting member comprising a single piece of stiff, strong fibre 5 which extends substantially throughout the extent of the pocket from adjacent one side opening thereof, around

2

the back of the cap, and to adjacent the other side opening of the pocket. This member has wide or high front ends 5*a* and a low connecting part 5*b* at the middle or rear portion thereof. It is concave on the inner faces, especially at ends 5*a*, to fit the curvature of the head.

The member or shell 5 is retained in any suitable way, as by turning in the lower edge of the outer layer 3, and gluing or stitching. A sweat band 6 forming another inner layer is secured inside the cap around the lower edge over the layers 3 and 3*a*.

The protective member made of fibre covers the sides of the head just above the ears.

The protective member 5 can obviously be put either in the pocket between the parts 3 and 3*a* as shown or outside of this pocket, by disposing it between the band or layer 6 and the layer 3*a*, with the band 6 overlapping the lower edge of the member.

The protector cap shown and described herein can be turned out at very low cost and is light but effective, so that it will fully safeguard but never handicap the player wearing it. The invention is not limited to the precise design presented. In practice the device may be altered in various ways consistent with the real nature of the invention.

Having described my invention, what I believe to be new is:

1. A protective cap comprising two fabric layers at the rear and opposite sides thereof forming a pocket having opposed side openings adjacent the front of the cap, and a substantially rigid protecting member removably disposed in said pocket and extending from adjacent one opening thereof, around the rear of the cap to adjacent the other opening in the pocket, said protecting member including opposed side portions of substantial vertical extent for disposal at opposite sides of a wearer's head and adjacent the openings in the pocket, and a rear portion of reduced vertical extent connecting said side portions, said protective member being secured along its lower edge to the outer of said layers.

2. The combination of a cap having an inner layer of flexible material and a protecting member disposed between the body portion of the cap and the layer of flexible material, said member

being of substantially rigid material and being of generally arcuate form in plan, the member including opposed end portions for conformity with the sides of the head of a wearer and an intermediate portion for conformity with a part of the head of the wearer between said end portions, the lower edge of said member being substantially in a plane and the upper edge of the member curving upwardly from said intermediate portion toward the end portions and thence downwardly adjacent the extremities of the end portions in the provision of portions of substantial depth for protecting the sides of the head.

EUGENE MAURO.

REFERENCES CITED

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

Publication, New York Times (sports section 5), published Sunday, March 9, 1941, first and fourth pages.

Publication, Baltimore News Post (sports section), published March 11 and March 12, 1941, pages 22 and 24 respectively.