April 29, 1930. W. A. INGRAM 1,756,358

COMBINED HIP AND KIDNEY PAD FOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS

Filed July 2, 1928

Fig. 1.

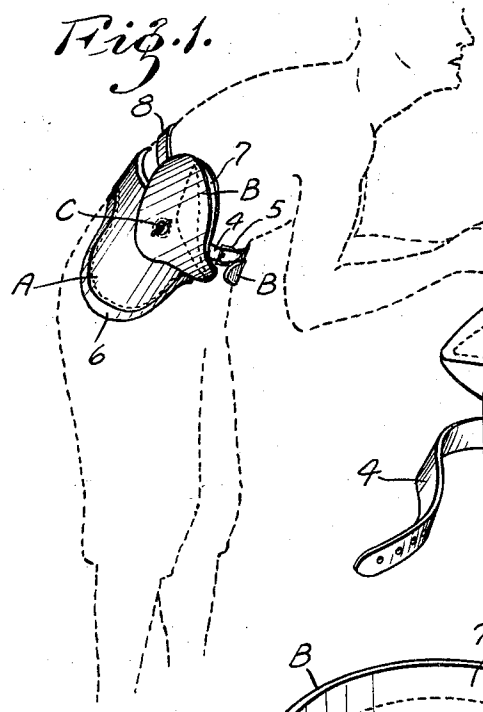


Fig. 3.

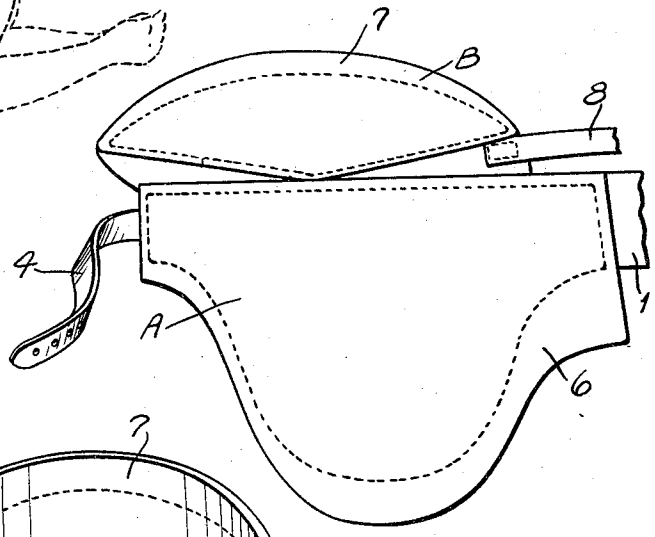


Fig. 2.

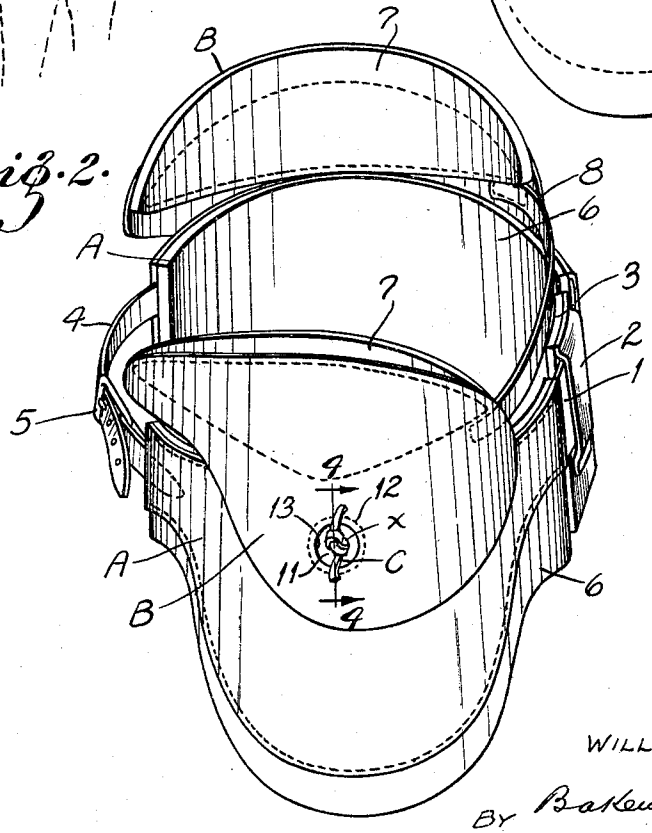
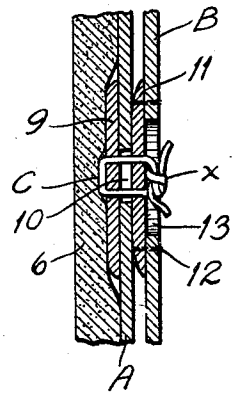


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINED HIP AND KIDNEY PAD FOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS

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This invention relates to protecting devices of the kind used by foot ball players, and particularly to devices that are employed to protect the hips and kidneys of the user.

One object of my invention is to provide a combined hip and kidney protecting device whose component parts are combined in such a manner that the kidney protecting portions of the device are capable of moving sufficiently relatively to the hip protecting portions of the device, on an axis disposed substantially transversely of the device, to permit free movement of the user's body and prevent the kidney protecting portions from sticking into the user's groin when the user bends forwardly or stoops over.

Another object is to provide a protecting device for athletes that comprises two members or portions which are pivotally connected together by a thong or lacing in such a way that the knot in the thong will not form a protuberance or projection on the outer surface of the device.

To this end I have devised a combined hip and kidney pad that comprises two substantially flexible hip pads, and two substantially flexible kidney pads pivotally connected intermediate their front and rear ends to said hip pads and arranged in overlapping relationship with same, with the upper portions of said kidney pads projecting above the top edges of the hip pads. The device is intended to be worn under a jacket or other suitable garment, and means is provided for strapping or holding the hip pads securely in position on the user's body. Due to the fact that the kidney pads are pivotally attached intermediate their front and rear ends to the hip pads, the front end portions of said kidney pads are capable of turning, oscillating or swinging downwardly, due to the thrust or pressure exerted on same by the user's body, for example, when the user bends forwardly or stoops over, as is frequently necessary in the game of foot ball.

The hip pads and kidney pads may be of any preferred construction, and various types of connection may be used to join the kidney pads to the hip pads. Preferably, said pads are formed from pieces of heavy leather padded on their inner faces with felt or the like, and thongs or lacings are used to attach the kidney pads to the hip pads, so as to permit the kidney pads to have practically a universal movement. The manner in which said thongs or lacings are combined with the parts which they join together is novel and will be hereinafter described.

Figure 1 illustrates a combined hip and kidney pad constructed in accordance with my invention, arranged in operative position on the user's body.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of said combined hip and kidney pad.

Figure 3 is a side elevational view, looking at the inner side of one hip pad and the kidney pad with which it co-operates; and

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view, taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate the preferred form of my invention, A designates the two hip pads of my improved device, which may be of any preferred construction and equipped with any suitable means for maintaining them in operative position on the user's body, said pads being herein illustrated as being connected together at their rear ends by a piece of elastic webbing 1 that passes through a loop 2 on a spine pad 3, and the front ends of said hip pad being connected together by a strap 4 on one pad that passes through a buckle 5 carried by the other pad. I prefer to form the hip pads A from pieces of relatively heavy leather, shaped so as to form a waist portion and a depending hip portion, and pad the inner faces of said pieces of leather with pieces 6 of relatively thick felt or other suitable material, as shown in Figure 2.

The device also comprises two kidney pads B that are pivotally connected intermediate their front and rear ends to the hip pads A and arranged in overlapping relationship with the same with the upper portions of said kidney pads projecting upwardly above the top edges of the hip pads sufficiently to afford adequate protection for the user's kidneys. When the device is in use the kidney pads B will turn, rock or oscillate relatively to the hip pads A, on an axis disposed or ex-

tending substantially transversely of the device, thus accommodating the movements of the user's body and preventing said kidney pads from sticking into the user's groin. It is immaterial, so far as my broad idea is concerned, how the kidney pads B are constructed, or how they are combined with the hip pads, so long as they are connected intermediate their front and rear ends to the hip pads in such a way that they are capable of moving relatively to same, as previously described, but I prefer to construct the kidney pads B from pieces of relatively heavy leather that have pieces 7 of heavy felt or other suitable padding material secured to the inner faces of the portions of said kidney pads which project upwardly above the top edges of the hip pads. The lower portions of the kidney pads are arranged in overlapping relation with the hip pads so that the device as an entirety may be said to consist of an articulated structure whose component parts are combined somewhat similar to the scales of a fish, whereby said component parts are capable of moving relatively to each other sufficiently to avoid binding or restricting the movements of the user's body, or to produce discomfiture to the parts of the user's anatomy which are located adjacent to or in the zone of the protecting device. The shape of the kidney pads B may be varied without departing from the spirit of my invention, but in the form of my invention herein illustrated the kidney pads are substantially oval-shaped in outline and are provided at their front ends with reduced portions so that the bottom edges of the kidney pads will conform approximately to the outline of the bottom edges of the hip pads, as shown in Figure 2, the reduced front end portions of the kidney pads projecting slightly beyond the front end portions of the hip pads. The rear ends of the kidney pads B are joined together by a connecting device 8, which may consist of a piece of elastic webbing, but it is not necessary to join or connect the front ends of the kidney pads together, as the user's jacket or other garment holds the front ends of the kidney pads pressed inwardly against the user's body. When the device is arranged in operative position the end portions of the felt inner facing piece 7 of the kidney pads B are positioned above or in alignment with the top edges of the hip pads. Accordingly, I am able to utilize said inner facing pieces 7 as stops on the kidney pads that limit the turning or oscillating movement of the kidney pads relatively to the hip pads.

As shown in Figure 3, the bottom edge of the inner facing piece 7 of each kidney pad is sloped upwardly in opposite directions from the center of the pad, so that the end portions of said facing piece 7 will be spaced far enough away from the top edge of the hip pad to permit the kidney pad to have a slight rocking movement relatively to the hip pad. While I prefer to construct the device in this particular manner, I wish it to be understood that this is simply a detail of construction that can be varied without departing from the spirit of my invention.

The connecting means that is preferably used for joining each kidney pad B to its co-operating hip pad A consists of a thong or lacing C, which, after being passed through said pads or devices connected to the same, is tied so as to form a knot x. Preferably, the hip pad is provided with a disk-shaped piece of leather 9 that is arranged between the leather portion of said pad and the felt inner facing of same over a hole 10 in said leather portion, as shown clearly in Figure 4. The lacing C is doubled and the two portions of said lacing project outwardly through the disk 9 and hole 10 through a disk-shaped piece 11 of leather or other suitable material that is connected by stitches 12 to the inner side of the overlapping portion of the kidney pad, the knot x being arranged on the outer side of the disk 11, thereby causing the kidney pad to be pivotally connected with the hip pad. In order that the knot x will not form a protuberance or projection on the outer face of the depending portion of the kidney pad that laps over the hip pad, I provide the depending portion of the kidney pad with a hole 13 that virtually forms a pocket for the knot x of the lacing C, the bottom of said pocket being formed by the disk 11 through which the lacing passes. In order to eliminate the possibility of the lacing C becoming twisted, the disk 9 previously referred to is mounted in the hip pad in such a way that it is capable of turning or revolving in the pocket formed by the leather portion and felt portion of the hip pad. The disk 11, which is arranged on the inner face of the depending portion of the kidney pad, also serves as a spacer which holds the two pads B and C spaced apart sufficiently to reduce friction between the same and permit the kidney pad to rock or oscillate freely when it is subjected to pressure by the user's body in a direction tending to cause it to turn on its pivot. A connection of the kind just described makes it possible for the kidney pad to have practically a universal movement relatively to the hip pad. Such a connection is rugged enough to successfully prevent the kidney pad from being torn away from the hip pad; it is inexpensive to manufacture; it permits the parts of the structure to be easily assembled and disassembled, and it permits the top part or overlapping part of the structure (the kidney pad) to have a flush outer face free from protuberances or projections, notwithstanding the fact that a tied lacing or thong is used to joint the top part or overlapping part of the structure to the part which carries it. This feature of my

invention is applicable to various other kinds of athletic protecting devices, and therefore, I do not wish it to be understood that this feature is limited to use in a combined hip and kidney pad.

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

1. A protecting device for foot ball players, comprising hip pads, and kidney pads arranged in overlapping relation with said hip pads and pivotally connected intermediate their front and rear ends to said hip pads, thereby producing an articulated structure in which the front end portions of the kidney pads are capable or rocking, upwardly and downwardly relatively to the hip pads.

2. A protecting device for foot ball players, comprising hip pads, means for retaining said pads in operative position on the user's body, kidney pads arranged in overlapping relation with the hip pad with the upper portions of said kidney pads projecting upwardly above the top edges of the hip pads, and pivotal connections between said kidney pads and hip pads, located intermediate the top and bottom edges and the front and rear ends of the kidney pads.

3. A protecting device for foot ball players, comprising hip pads, kidney pads arranged in overlapping relation with said hip pads pivotally connected to said hip pads at points intermediate the front and rear ends of said kidney pads, and means for joining the rear ends of said kidney pads together, the front ends of said kidney pads having no direct connection with each other.

4. A protecting device for foot ball players, provided with a hip pad, a kidney pad having a portion that laps over the hip pad, and a thong or lacing for connecting said kidney pad to said hip pad, one of said pads being provided with a part through which the lacing passes and which is mounted in such a way that it is free to turn or rotate.

5. A protecting device for foot ball players, comprising a hip pad, a kidney pad having a portion that laps over said hip pad, and a pivotal connection between said parts located intermediate the front and rear ends of the kidney pad and formed by thong or lacing provided with a knot, one of said pads being provided with a pocket in which said knot is housed.

6. A protecting device for foot ball players, provided with a hip pad, a kidney pad having a portion that overlaps the hip pad, a pivotal connection between said parts, and a means interposed between the overlapping portions of said parts which tends to reduce friction between said parts when the kidney pad moves relatively to the hip pad.

7. A protecting device for foot ball players, provided with a hip pad, a kidney pad arranged in overlapping relation with said hip pad, a piece connected to the inner side of the overlapping portion of the kidney pad over a hole in said portion located intermediate the front and rear ends of the kidney pad, and a thong or lacing that passes through the hip pad and through said piece and which is provided with a knot that is positioned in said hole.

8. A protecting device for foot ball players, comprising hip pads, kidney pads pivotally connected intermediate their front and rear ends, with said hip pads and adapted to rock about an axis disposed substantially transversely of the device, and means for limiting the rocking or turning movement of the kidney pads relatively to the hip pads.

9. A protecting device for foot ball players, comprising hip pads, kidney pads pivotally combined with said hip pads, and facing pieces on the inner side of portions of the kidney pads that project upwardly above the top edges of the hip pads, constructed so as to serve as stops which restrict the turning or oscillating movement of the kidney pads relatively to the hip pads.

10. In an athletic protecting device, the combination of two members arranged in overlapping relation, a thong or lacing for joining said members together provided with a knot, and a pocket in the outer member that receives said knot and thus prevents said knot from forming a protuberance or projection on said outer member.

11. In an athletic protecting device, the combination of two members arranged in overlapping relation, the outer member having a hole in same, a part connected to the inner face of the outer member, arranged so as to act as a spacer between said members and also as a closure for a hole, and said thong or lacing passing through the inner member and through the said part on the outer member and provided with a knot that is housed within said hole.

12. In an athletic protecting device, the combination of two members arranged in overlapping relation, a part connected to the inner side of the top member over a hole in said member, a disk rotatably mounted in a pocket in the under member, and a thong or lacing passing through said disk and part and provided with a knot that is positioned in the hole in the top member.

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