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FOOTBALL GLOVE

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Fig. 1.

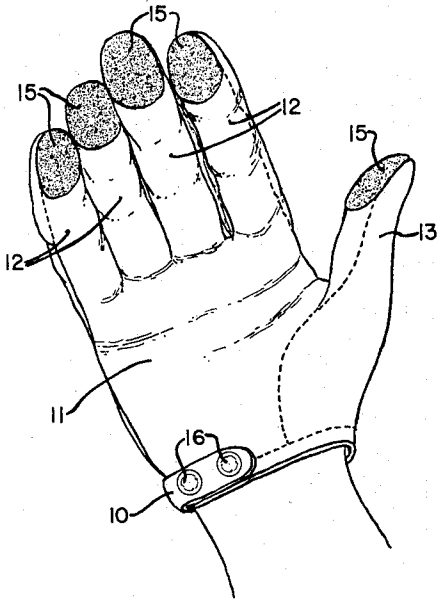


Fig. 2.

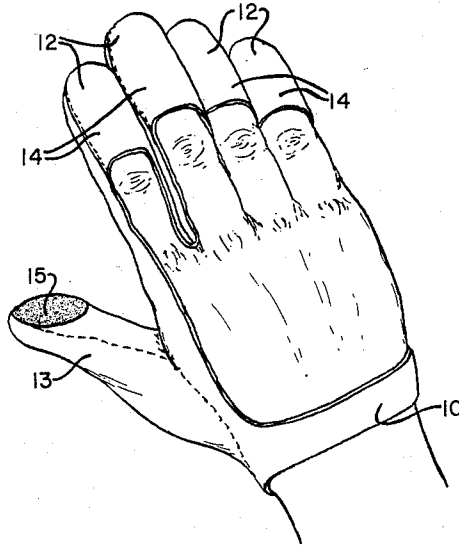


Fig. 3.

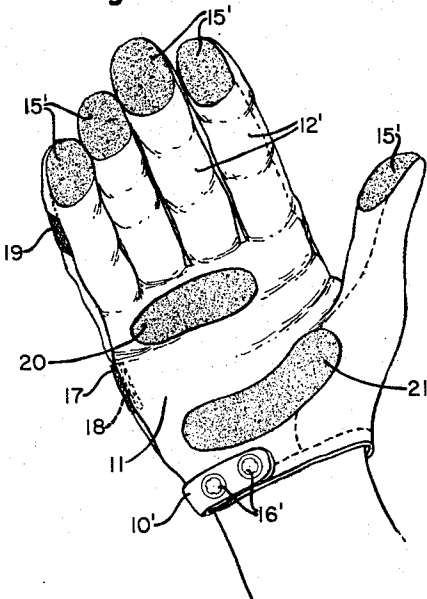
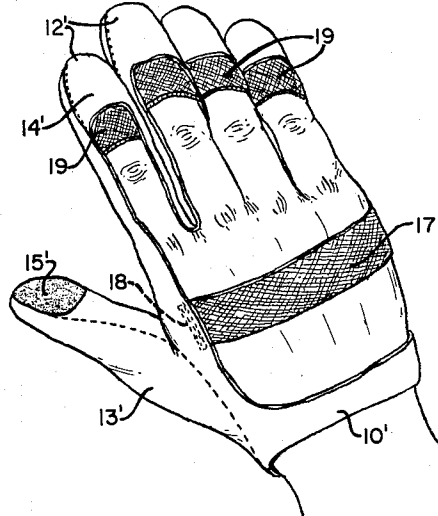


Fig. 4.



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**FOOTBALL GLOVE**

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2-159)

This invention relates broadly to sports gloves and more particularly, to a glove useful to participants in the sport of football.

Over the years, the game of football has evolved from primarily a running or power play game to that of substantially a deceptive ball handling and passing game. As is well known, the game of football is very often played in foul weather. When football is played in foul weather the ball becomes damp, slippery, and even water-soaked, and despite the fact that several balls may be alternately used in the course of the game, they nevertheless become slippery and hard to manage. The result is that the passing attack of the teams is greatly diminished and the deceptive ball handling greatly impaired because the quarterback or passer of the team cannot grip the ball in foul weather as well as in fair and, too, the receivers of the ball have greater difficulty in catching or holding the ball in foul weather than in fair. The foregoing difficulties are well known, not only to the players themselves, but to all football sportsmen.

Gloves have been heretofore developed for use in other sports, such as golf, archery, bowling and, of course, baseball, none of which are adapted for use in football.

I have invented a football glove which is particularly useful for all ball handlers in fair or foul weather. My glove is such that the wearer while handling a football, whether in fair or foul weather, has more certainty and sureness in his grip or control of the ball.

In my invention, I provide a football glove having a wrist strap, a palm portion and finger and thumb stalls with the back of the glove being open. The backs of the finger stalls extend only from the ends of the fingers to between the first and second joints thereof. I provide patches of a tenacious gripping material on the tip portions of said thumb and finger stalls. I preferably provide elastic tension bands across the back of the finger stalls between the first and second joints to secure the wearer's fingers in the finger stalls. I also preferably provide an elastic strap attached at its ends to the palm portion of the glove and extending across the back of the wearer's hand in a zone removed from the joints and knuckles of the wearer's hand. I further preferably provide additional patches of tenacious gripping material disposed in the pad zones of the palm of the glove.

Thus, I have invented a glove which provides not only a tenacious grip for all ball handlers but also provides for the freedom, flexibility and maneuverability of the hand and in particular the fingers so necessary for competent manipulation of the ball.

Another advantage of my glove is that to some extent it will protect and warm the hand of the wearer which certainly in foul weather will be of benefit to the wearer in keeping his hand more manipulative than it ordinarily would be in such circumstances.

Other details, objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the following description of certain present preferred embodiments thereof proceeds.

In the accompanying drawings, I have shown certain present preferred embodiments of the invention in which

FIGURE 1 is an elevational view of a preferred embodiment of the invention showing the palm side thereof as disposed on a wearer's hand;

FIGURE 2 is an elevational view of a preferred em-

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bodiment of the invention showing the back side thereof as disposed on a wearer's hand;

FIGURE 3 is an elevational view of another preferred embodiment of the invention showing the palm side thereof as disposed on a wearer's hand; and

FIGURE 4 is an elevational view of another preferred embodiment of the invention showing the back side thereof as disposed on a wearer's hand.

Referring to the drawings and initially to FIGURES 1 and 2, I have illustrated a football glove having a wrist strap 10, a palm portion 11, finger stalls 12 and thumb stall 13. The back portion 14 of each of finger stalls 12 extends from the end of each of finger stalls 12 to a zone between the first and second joints of the wearer's fingers, as shown in FIGURE 2.

As shown in FIGURE 1, I provide patches 15 on the tip portions of finger stalls 12 and thumb stall 13. Patches 15 are composed of a tenacious gripping material whose gripping quality is substantially unaffected by moisture. I have found that patches 15 made of neoprene are very suitable for this purpose and provide an admirable quality of tenaciousness when in contact with the leather of a football whether the football is wet or dry to thus furnish the wearer of my glove a sureness and certainty in gripping or catching or otherwise handling a football that at least in foul weather would be lacking.

If the glove is properly fitted and the wrist band snugly secured, as for instance, by snaps 16, it will remain close or cleave to the wearer's hand. However, in another preferred embodiment, I provide an elastic strap 17, the ends of which are attached to the palm of the glove, as at references 18, and which extends across the back of the wearer's hand in a zone removed from the joints and knuckles of the wearer's hand, as shown in FIGURE 4. This assures that the glove will firmly and snugly stay in place on the wearer's hand. To further assure that the glove will remain properly in place on the wearer's hand, I also provide elastic tension means such as bands 19 in the back portions of the finger stalls which substantially eliminates any possibility of the glove failing to properly stay in position on the wearer's hand.

The like parts of the embodiment illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4 to those in the embodiment illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2 carry corresponding reference numbers with a prime.

Referring to FIGURE 3, I further preferably provide on the palm portion of the glove additional patches 20 and 21 of a tenaciously gripping material such as neoprene. These additional palm patches are preferably disposed in the pad zones of the palm portion; the pad zones of the palm portion being that part of palm portion which lies over the heel, ball, outside edge and callous portions of the wearer's palm which are commonly referred to as the pad zones of the palm of the hand.

It is obvious that patches may be disposed in various combinations in the palm portion without departing from the scope and spirit of this disclosure but I have found that the most useful zones in which to position patches are those which lie over the pad portions of the palm of the wearer's hand. It is also obvious that there are other materials that would suffice for the above patches such as, for example, emery cloth, however, I have found neoprene to be a very suitable material for this purpose.

It should be noted also that wrist strap 10 is disposed just short of the wearer's wrist and thus does not interfere with wrist movement but rather allows the wearer complete freedom of wrist movement.

The glove, of course, should be made of a good grade of leather not adversely affected by moisture. I have found a leather known in the trade as chrome leather to be very suitable for this purpose.

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Thus, I have described and illustrated a football glove that provides the wearer not only a tenacious grip on the ball to better enable him to handle, catch or otherwise control a football but also, by virtue of its open back and non-interference with the wrist and the knuckles and the joints of the fingers of the hand, provides for the freedom, flexibility and maneuverability of the wearer's hand and particularly the wearer's fingers so necessary for competent and confident manipulation of the ball by the wearer.

While I have shown and described certain present preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be distinctly understood that the invention is not limited thereto but may be variously embodied within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A football glove comprising a wriststrap, a palm portion, individual finger and thumb stalls, the backs of said finger stalls extending from the tips thereof to a zone between the first and second joints of the wearer's fingers and each having an elastic portion in said zone adapted to grip and retain said fingers in said stalls, the remaining part of the back of the glove being open, said glove having patches of tactile gripping material secured at the balls of the thumb and finger stalls, said glove otherwise being of a less tactile gripping material than said patches.

2. A football glove comprising a wriststrap, a palm portion, individual finger and thumb stalls, the backs of said finger stalls extending from the tips thereof to a zone between the first and second joints of the wearer's fingers and each having an elastic portion in said zone

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adapted to grip and retain said fingers in said stalls, said glove having elastic strap means extending across the back of the wearer's hand in a zone removed from the knuckles thereof and further having patches of tactile gripping material secured at the balls of the thumb and finger stalls and the pad portions of the palm, said glove otherwise being of a less tactile gripping material.

3. A football glove comprising a wriststrap, a palm portion, individual finger and thumb stalls, the backs of said finger stalls extending from the tips thereof to a zone between the first and second joints of the wearer's fingers and each having an elastic portion in said zone adapted to grip and retain said fingers in said stalls, said glove having elastic strap means extending across the back of the wearer's hand in a zone removed from the knuckles thereof, said glove being generally of leather material with patches of neoprene material secured at the balls of the thumb and finger stalls and the pad portions of the palm.

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