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W. P. WHITLEY ET AL

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FOOTBALL TROUSERS

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Fig. 1.

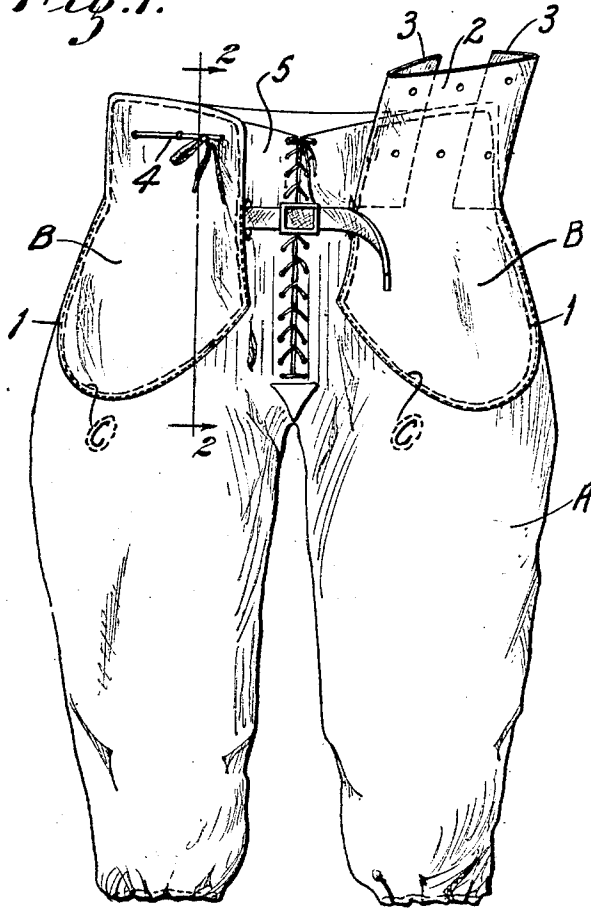
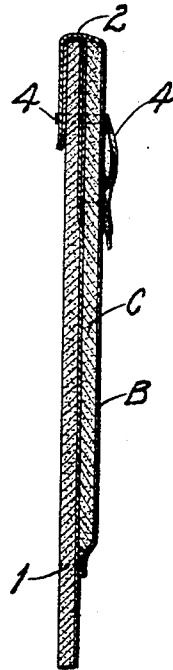


Fig. 2.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## FOOTBALL TROUSERS.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, WILLIAM P. WHITLEY and ROBERT C. ZUPPKE, citizens of the United States, residing, respectively, in the city of St. Louis, State of Missouri, and Champaign, Illinois, 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 football trousers.

The main object of the invention is to provide a pair of football trousers that are equipped with extra pads which afford additional protection to the lower abdomen of the wearer and also preferably to the wearer's pelvic bones, groin and appendix.

Another object is to provide a pair of football trousers which are equipped with outside pockets or casings of novel construction in which removable pads are adapted to be arranged so as to afford adequate protection to the wearer's abdomen or to the abdomen and also to the groin and appendix.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a front elevational view of a pair of football trousers constructed in accordance with our invention; and

Figure 2 is a sectional view, taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate the preferred form of our invention, A designates a pair of football trousers, of any preferred construction, which are equipped with two outside pockets or casings B arranged at the front side of the trousers, as shown in Figure 1, and constructed in such a manner that removable pads C can be arranged inside of same so as to afford additional protection to the wearer's abdomen. Preferably, said pockets B and the pads C positioned in same are so proportioned that said pads not only protect the lower portion of the wearer's abdomen, but also the pelvic bones, the groin and the appendix.

Each of the pockets or casings B is formed from a piece of fabric, preferably of the same kind from which the trousers are constructed, arranged on the outside of the front of the trousers and shaped so as to form a pocket open at its upper end and projecting downwardly a considerable distance from the upper edge or waist band

portion of the trousers. In the form of our invention herein illustrated each of the pocket pieces B comprises a single lower portion that is secured by stitches 1 to the front of the trousers and a doubled upper portion formed by an extension 2 of the lower portion and flaps 3 that fold inwardly over said extension 2, as shown more clearly in Figure 1. The extension 2 and flaps 3 virtually form a tubular casing at the upper end of the pocket, which tubular casing is preferably made long enough so that it can be folded inwardly and downwardly over the upper edge or waist band portion of the trousers and then secured to same by a means 4, as shown in Figure 2.

The pad C, which is removably mounted in each of the pockets B, is usually formed from a piece of heavy felt, and in instances where the wearer is suffering from an injury to the abdomen or adjacent portions of the anatomy, a substantially rigid shield or guard, usually a piece of fibre conforming to the shape of the pad C, is slipped into the pocket B on the front side of the pad C. It is immaterial, so far as our broad idea is concerned, what means is used to close the open ends of the pad pockets B, so as to retain the pads or protecting devices in operative position in said pockets, but, as previously stated, we prefer to construct the pocket pieces so that after the pads C have been slipped into the pockets B, the upper end portions of the pocket pieces can be folded inwardly and downwardly, as shown in Figure 2, so as to embrace the upper edge or waist band portion of the trousers. The securing means 4, previously referred to, preferably consists of lacings 4, and we also prefer to form aligned holes in the pads and in the waist band portion 5 of the trousers, so as to permit the lacings 4 to be passed through the doubled upper end portions of the pocket pieces, through the waist band portion 5 of the trousers, through the pads C and then brought forwardly through the pocket pieces and tied on the front side of same, as shown at the left of Figure 1.

Outside pockets of the kind described add very little to the cost of football trousers, but they greatly enhance the value of such trousers, in that they permit pads or protecting devices to be arranged on the trousers in such a way as to afford adequate protec-

tion to the lower portion of the abdomen, the pelvic bones, the groin and the appendix of a football player. The shape and dimensions of the pad pockets are immaterial and it is also immaterial how said pockets are combined with the trousers, but the construction above described is inexpensive to manufacture, it permits the pads to be removed easily and it is not apt to be damaged by the rough usage to which football trousers are subjected.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

- 15 1. A pair of football trousers provided with outside pad pockets or casings arranged on the front side of the trousers and projecting downwardly from the upper edge or waist band portion of the trousers, and removable pads arranged in said pockets, each of said pockets comprising an upper end portion that is adapted to be folded inwardly and downwardly over the waist band portion of the trousers.
- 25 2. A pair of football trousers provided with outside pad pockets or casings arranged on the front side of the trousers and pro-

jecting downwardly from the upper edge or waist band portion of the trousers, removable pads arranged in said pockets, each of said pockets comprising an upper end portion that is adapted to be folded inwardly and downwardly over the waist band portion of the trousers, and lacings for retaining the folded over end portions of said pockets and for securing said pads to the waist band portion of the trousers.

3. A pair of football trousers provided with outside pad pockets arranged on the front side of the trousers in the zone of the wearer's abdomen and each formed from a pocket piece of fabric secured to the trousers by stitching and provided at its upper end with an extension and flaps that virtually form a tubular casing which is adapted to be folded inwardly and downwardly over the upper edge or waist band portion of the trousers, pads in said pockets, and lacings passed through said folded portions, through the waist band portion and through the pads for securing the pads in operative position in the pockets.

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