



# Senior Design Team 519: Football Shoulder Pads

**Paul Cunningham, Vivi Huynh, Sawyer O'Bryan,  
Nicholas Palestrini, Morgan Sefcik**

Paul Cunningham

# Team Introduction



**Morgan Sefcik**  
*Project Manager*



**Paul Cunningham**  
*Design and Materials  
Engineer*



**Vivi Huynh**  
*Design and  
Manufacturing  
Engineer*



**Sawyer O'Bryan**  
*Design and Materials  
Engineer*



**Nicholas Palestrini**  
*Product Development  
and Data Engineer*  
Paul Cunningham

# Sponsor and Advisor



Sponsor  
Mike Holloway  
*Survivor 30th Season Winner*



Academic Advisor  
Christian Hubicki, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor*

Paul Cunningham

# Past Work

Paul Cunningham



# Project Objective

**The objective of this project is to reduce injuries of football players through the improvement of shoulder pads.**

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# Key Goals

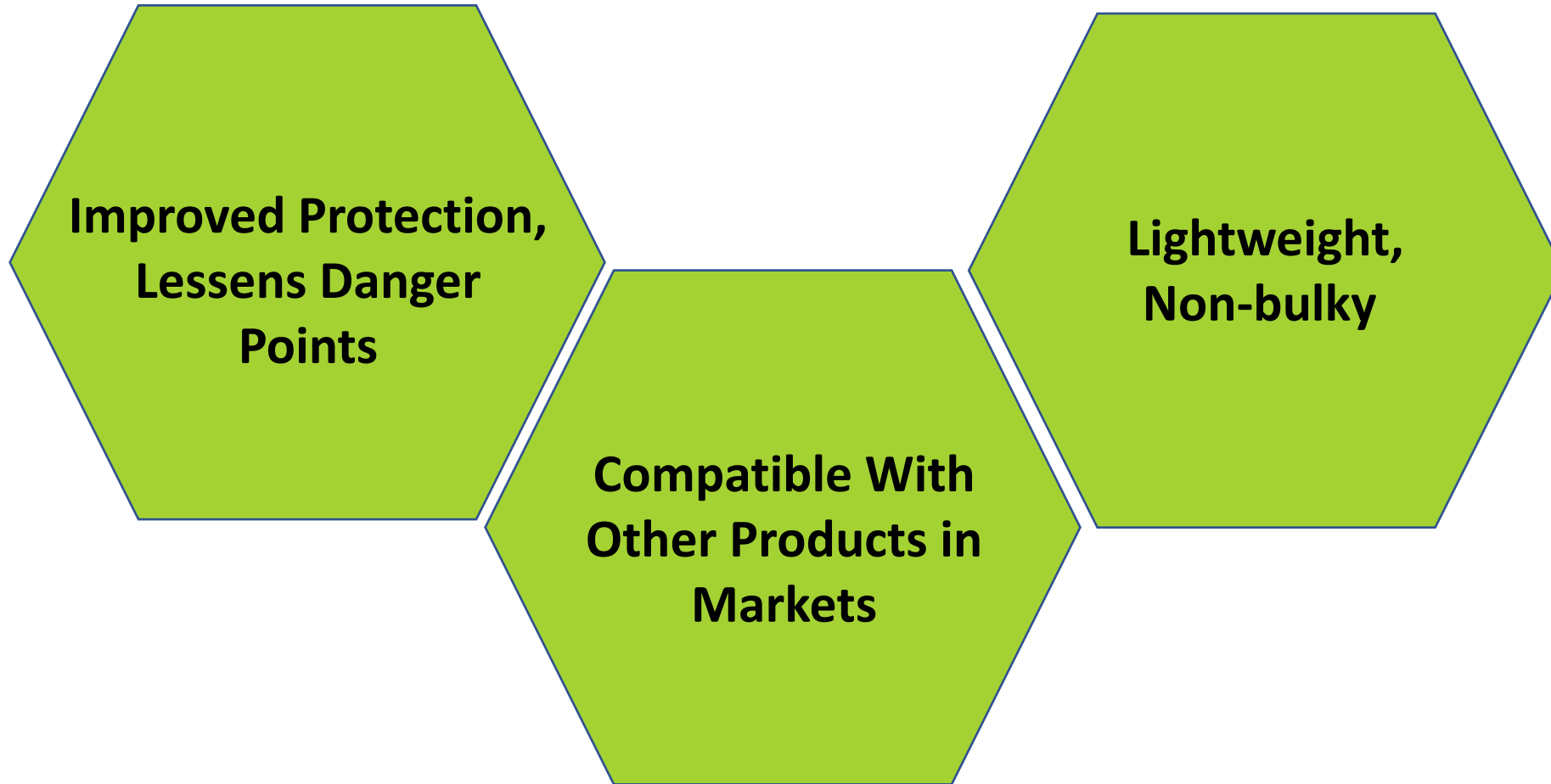
**Energy  
Distribution**

**Lifespan and  
Durability**

**Prevent  
Restrictions  
of  
Movement**

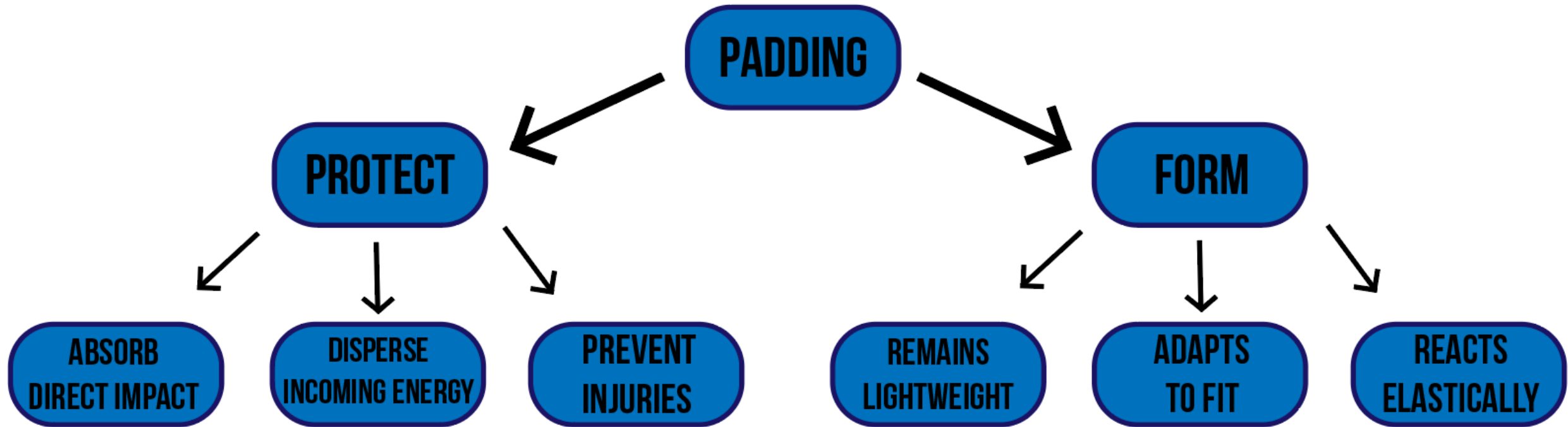
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# Fundamental Needs



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# Hierarchy Chart



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# Cross-Reference Table

	Protect	Form
Absorb Direct Impact	X	X
Disperse Incoming Energy	X	X
Prevent Injuries	X	
Remains Lightweight		X
Adapts to Fit		X
Reacts Elastically	X	X

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# Targets & Metrics

Sawyer O'Bryan



# Function Table

Function	Metric	Target
Absorb Direct Impact	G-Force (G)	Decelerates impacts by at least 75%
Disperse Incoming Energy	Force (lbf)	Less than 740 lbf
Reacts Elastically	Volume (in <sup>3</sup> )	No loss of volume
Remains Lightweight	Weight (lbs)	5 lbs or less
Adapts to Fit	Regulations (in)	½ in gaps
Cost to Produce	US dollars (\$)	No more than 10% increase in production cost over current products
Compact Size	Volume (in <sup>3</sup> )	Less than 10% bigger than current products
Comfortability	Rating: 1 to 10	At least 7 out of 10

Sawyer O'Bryan

# Key Function Targets & Metrics

Function	Metric	Target
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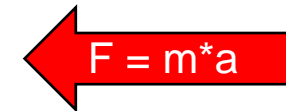
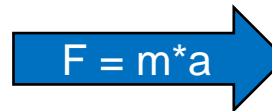
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# Target – Absorb Direct Impact

**Metric: G-Force (Acceleration)**

**Target: Decelerate Impact Force  
by 75%**

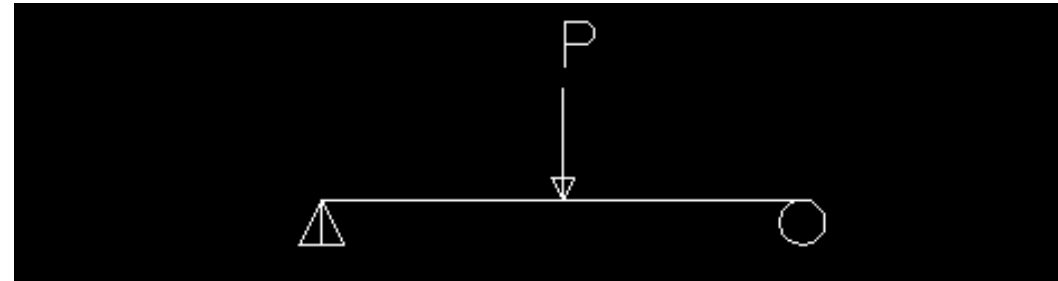
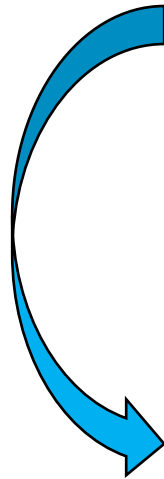


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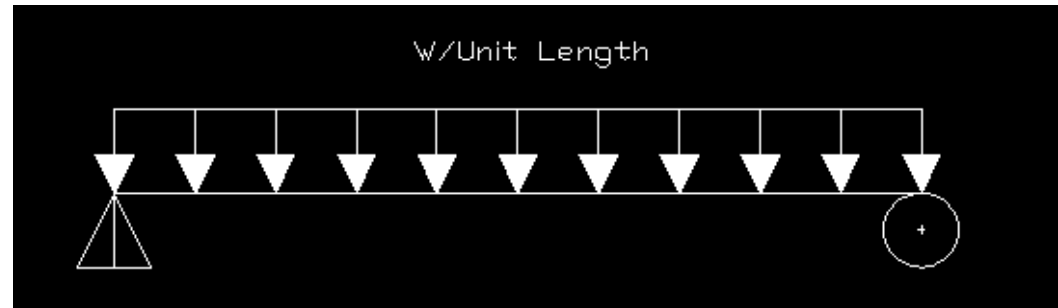
# Target – Disperse Incoming Energy

**Metric: Force (lbf)**

**Target: Less than 740 lbf at any specific point**



Point Load



Distributed Load

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# Target – Reacts Elastically

**Metric: Volume (in<sup>3</sup>)**

**Target: No change in Volume**

## Elasticity

- ✓ An object is considered elastic when it returns to its original size and shape after a load has been removed
- ✓ High Elastic Modulus
- ✓ Impact must not exceed the material's elastic limit

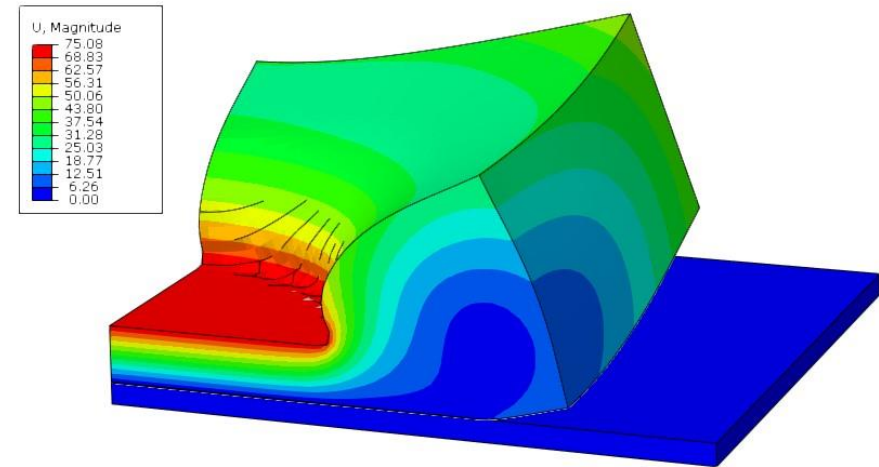
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# Methods of Validation

## ASET Services Drop Test



## Finite Element Analysis (FEA)



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# Concept Generation







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# Concept Generation



## Methods

-  Biomimicry
-  Morphological Chart
-  Crapshoot
-  Anti-Problem
-  Battle of Perspectives
-  Brainstorming



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# Brainstorming



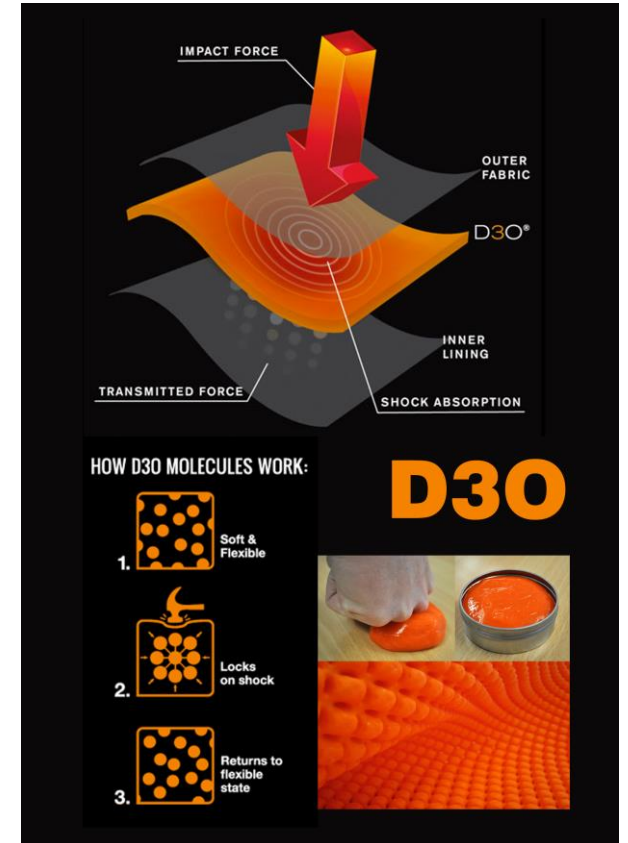
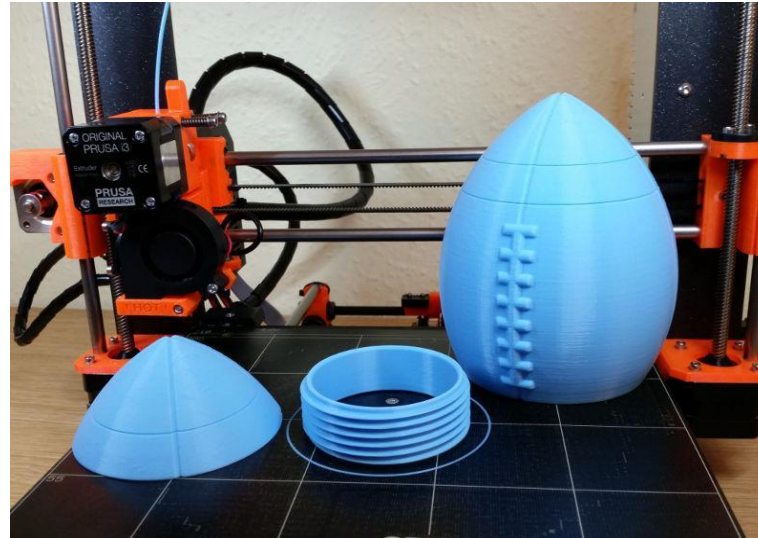
Discussion between all group members to produce potential concepts.



Concepts generated in all categories.



Many material options were discussed.



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# Morphological Chart



Allows concepts to be generated quickly by listing different design solutions for each component.



Often similar concepts



Less creative concepts than other methods

Morphological Chart			
Padding Material	Shell Material	Increase Stability	Increase Mobility
Memory Foam (Current Material)	Plastic (Current Material)	Compression sleeve underneath shoulder	Reduce Shell Volume
Air Pocket Technology	Kevlar	Compression shirt with rib and sternum padding	Reduce Padding Volume
Negative Poisson Ratio material		Casting structure custom fitted to each player	

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# Medium Fidelity Concepts



*"Non-Newtonian Fluid"*



*"Padded Compression"*

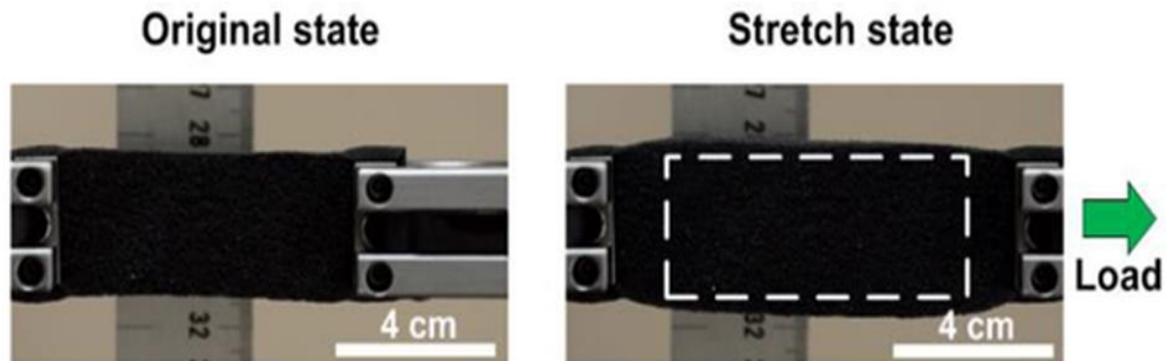


*"Open Cell Structure Foam"*

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# High Fidelity Concepts



*"Auxetic Foam"*



*"Air Pocket Technology"*

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# Concept Selection

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# Pairwise Comparison

Pairwise Comparison						
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. Impact absorbent	-----	1	1	1	1	4
2. Lightweight	0	-----	1	1	1	3
3. Flexible	0	0	-----	0	1	1
4. Durable	0	0	1	-----	0	1
5. Easily incorporated into existing products	0	0	0	1	-----	1

Nicholas Palestrini



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	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. Impact absorbent	-----	1	1	1	1	4
2. Lightweight	0	-----	1	1	1	3
3. Flexible	0	0	-----	0	1	1
4. Durable	0	0	1	-----	0	1
5. Easily incorporated into existing products	0	0	0	1	-----	1

Nicholas Palestrini

# House of Quality

Key
0 - not at all
1 - slightly
3 - moderately
9 - very much

House of Quality							
		Engineering Characteristics					
IMPROVEMENT DIRECTION		↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
UNITS		Gs	lbf	n/a	lb	in	in <sup>3</sup>
Customer Requirements	Importance Weight Factor	Absorbs impact	Disperse energy	Prevent Injury	Lightweight	Adapts to fit	Reacts Elastically
Impact absorbent	4	9	9	3	0	0	1
Lightweight	3	0	0	3	9	0	0
Flexible	1	3	1	1	0	3	3
Durable	1	1	0	3	0	0	3
Easily incorporated into existing products	1	0	0	3	3	3	1
Raw Score	10	40	37	28	30	6	11
Relative Weight %		26.32%	24.34%	18.42%	19.74%	3.95%	7.24%
Rank Order		1	2	4	3	6	5

Nicholas Palestrini



# Pugh Chart 1

Pugh Chart 1						
SELECTION CRITERIA	Existing Shoulder Pads	Concept 1 Replace interior padding with non-Newtonian fluid	Concept 2 Metal plate insert centered within padding	Concept 3 Non-Newtonian fluid padded compression undershirt	Concept 4 Inflatable undershirt to compensate for ill-fitting shoulder pads	Concept 4 Replace interior padding with Cellular Urethane
Absorb Impact	Datum	+	+	+	+	+
Disperse Energy		+	+	+	+	+
Prevent Injury		+	+	+	+	+
Lightweight		-	-	-	-	S
Adapts to Fit		+	-	S	+	S
Reacts Elastically		-	S	-	S	S
# of pluses		4	3	3	4	3
# of minuses		2	2	2	2	0

Nicholas Palestrini



# Pugh Chart 1

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SELECTION CRITERIA	Existing Shoulder Pads	Concept 1 Replace interior padding with non-Newtonian fluid	Concept 2 Metal plate insert centered within padding	Concept 3 Non-Newtonian fluid padded compression undershirt	Concept 4 Inflatable undershirt to compensate for ill-fitting shoulder pads	Concept 4 Replace interior padding with Celluular Urethane
Absorb Impact	Datum	+	+	+	+	+
Disperse Energy		+	+	+	+	+
Prevent Injury		+	+	+	+	+
Lightweight		-	-	-	-	S
Adapts to Fit		+	-	S	+	S
Reacts Elastically		-	S	-	S	S
# of pluses		4	3	3	4	3
# of minuses		2	2	2	2	0

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# Pugh Chart 2

Pugh Chart 2				
SELECTION CRITERIA	Replace interior padding with Cellular Urethane	Concept 6 Replace interior padding with air pocket technology	Concept 7 Negative Poisson ratio material padded compression undershirt	Concept 8 Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material
Absorb Impact	Datum	-	+	+
Disperse Energy		-	+	+
Prevent Injury		-	+	+
Lightweight		+	-	+
Adapts to Fit		+	+	+
Reacts Elastically		S	+	+
# of pluses		2	5	6
# of minuses		3	1	0

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# Pugh Chart 2

Pugh Chart 2				
SELECTION CRITERIA	Replace interior padding with Cellular Urethane	Concept 6 Replace interior padding with air pocket technology	Concept 7 Negative Poisson ratio material padded compression undershirt	Concept 8 Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material
Absorb Impact	Datum	-	+	+
Disperse Energy		-	+	+
Prevent Injury		-	+	+
Lightweight		+	-	+
Adapts to Fit		+	+	+
Reacts Elastically		S	+	+
# of pluses		2	5	6
# of minuses		3	1	0

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# Pugh Chart 3

Pugh Chart 3			
SELECTION CRITERIA	Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material	Concept 6 Replace interior padding with air pocket technology	Concept 7 Negative Poisson ratio material padded compression undershirt
Absorb Impact	Datum	-	-
Disperse Energy		-	-
Prevent Injury		-	S
Lightweight		+	+
Adapts to Fit		S	S
Reacts Elastically		+	-
# of pluses		2	1
# of minuses		3	3

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# Pugh Chart 3

Pugh Chart 3			
SELECTION CRITERIA	Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material	Concept 6 Replace interior padding with air pocket technology	Concept 7 Negative Poisson ratio material padded compression undershirt
Absorb Impact	Datum	-	-
Disperse Energy		-	-
Prevent Injury		-	S
Lightweight		+	+
Adapts to Fit		S	S
Reacts Elastically		+	-
# of pluses		2	1
# of minuses		3	3

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# Criteria Comparison Matrix

Criteria Comparison Matrix						
	Absorbs Impact	Disperses Energy	Prevent Injury	Remains Lightweight	Adapts to Fit	Reacts Elastically
Absorbs Impact	1.00	7.00	5.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Disperses Energy	0.14	1.00	1.00	3.00	5.00	5.00
Prevent Injury	0.20	1.00	1.00	0.33	3.00	3.00
Remains Lightweight	0.14	0.33	3.00	1.00	5.00	3.00
Adapts to Fit	0.14	0.20	0.33	0.20	1.00	1.00
Reacts Elastically	0.14	0.20	0.33	0.33	1.00	1.00
Sum	1.77	9.73	10.67	11.87	22.00	20.00



Normalized Criteria Comparison Matrix							
	Absorbs Impact	Disperses Energy	Prevent Injury	Remains Lightweight	Adapts to Fit	Reacts Elastically	Critical Weight
Absorbs Impact	0.565	0.719	0.469	0.590	0.318	0.350	0.502
Disperses Energy	0.081	0.103	0.094	0.253	0.227	0.250	0.168
Prevent Injury	0.113	0.103	0.094	0.028	0.136	0.150	0.104
Remains Lightweight	0.081	0.034	0.281	0.084	0.227	0.150	0.143
Adapts to Fit	0.081	0.021	0.031	0.017	0.045	0.050	0.041
Reacts Elastically	0.081	0.021	0.031	0.028	0.045	0.050	0.043
Sum	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

Consistency Comparison	
$\lambda - n$	0.67
$n - 1$	5
Consistency index	0.133
RI Value	1.35
Consistency Ratio	0.099

Consistency Check		
{Ws}	{W}	Cons
3.78	0.502	7.54
1.19	0.168	7.09
0.67	0.104	6.45
0.91	0.143	6.40
0.25	0.041	6.18
0.27	0.043	6.35
Average ( $\lambda$ )		6.67

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# Concept Comparison Matrix

Disperses Energy Comparison			
	Concept 5 Replace interior padding with Cellular Urethane	Concept 1 Replace interior padding with non-Newtonian fluid	Concept 8 Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material
Concept 5 Replace interior padding with Cellular Urethane	1.00	0.33	0.33
Concept 1 Replace interior padding with non-Newtonian fluid	3.00	1.00	3.00
Concept 8 Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material	3.00	0.33	1.00
Sum	7.00	1.67	4.33

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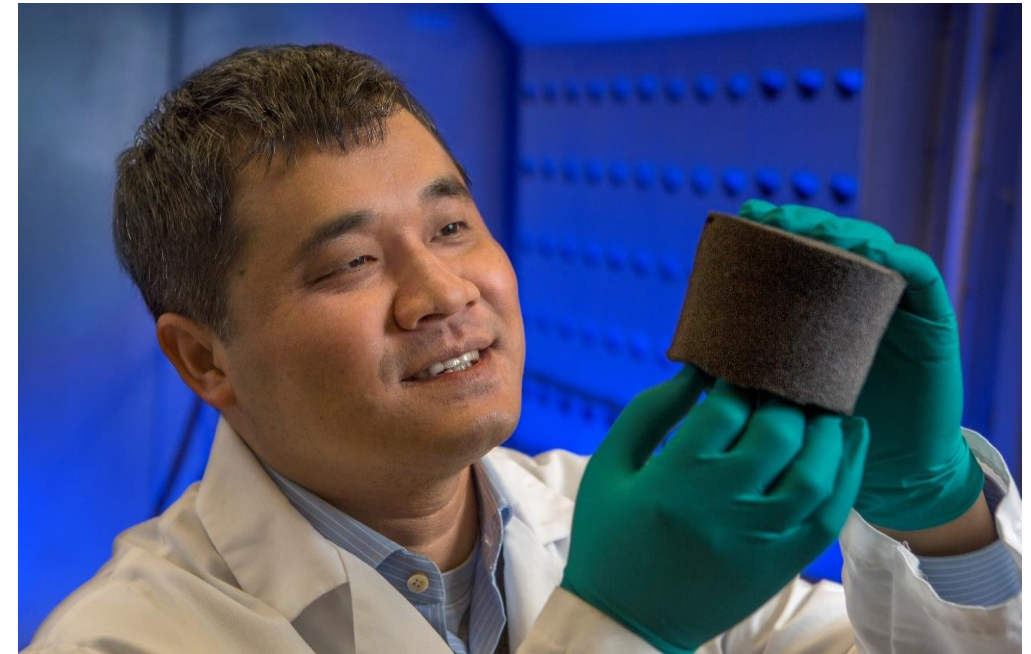
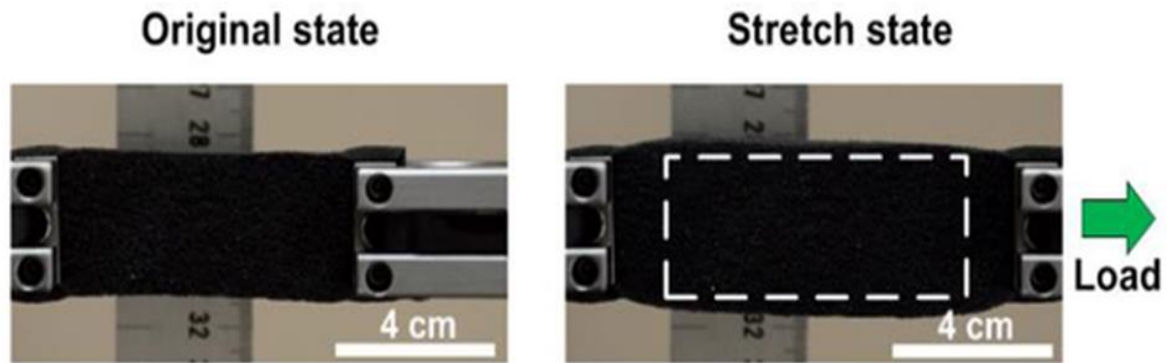
# Final Rating Matrix

Final Rating Matrix			
	Concept 5 Replace interior padding with Cellular Urethane	Concept 1 Replace interior padding with non-Newtonian fluid	Concept 8 Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material
Absorbs Impact	0.15	0.07	0.78
Disperses Energy	0.14	0.57	0.29
Prevent Injury	0.33	0.33	0.33
Remains Lightweight	0.30	0.09	0.61
Adapts to Fit	0.20	0.60	0.20
Reacts Elastically	0.30	0.09	0.61

Alternative Ratings			Concept Final Winner
Concept 5 Replace interior padding with Cellular Urethane	7.241	0.223	<b>Concept 8</b> Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material
Concept 1 Replace interior padding with non-Newtonian fluid	10.681	0.329	
Concept 8 Replace interior padding with negative Poisson ratio material	14.502	0.447	

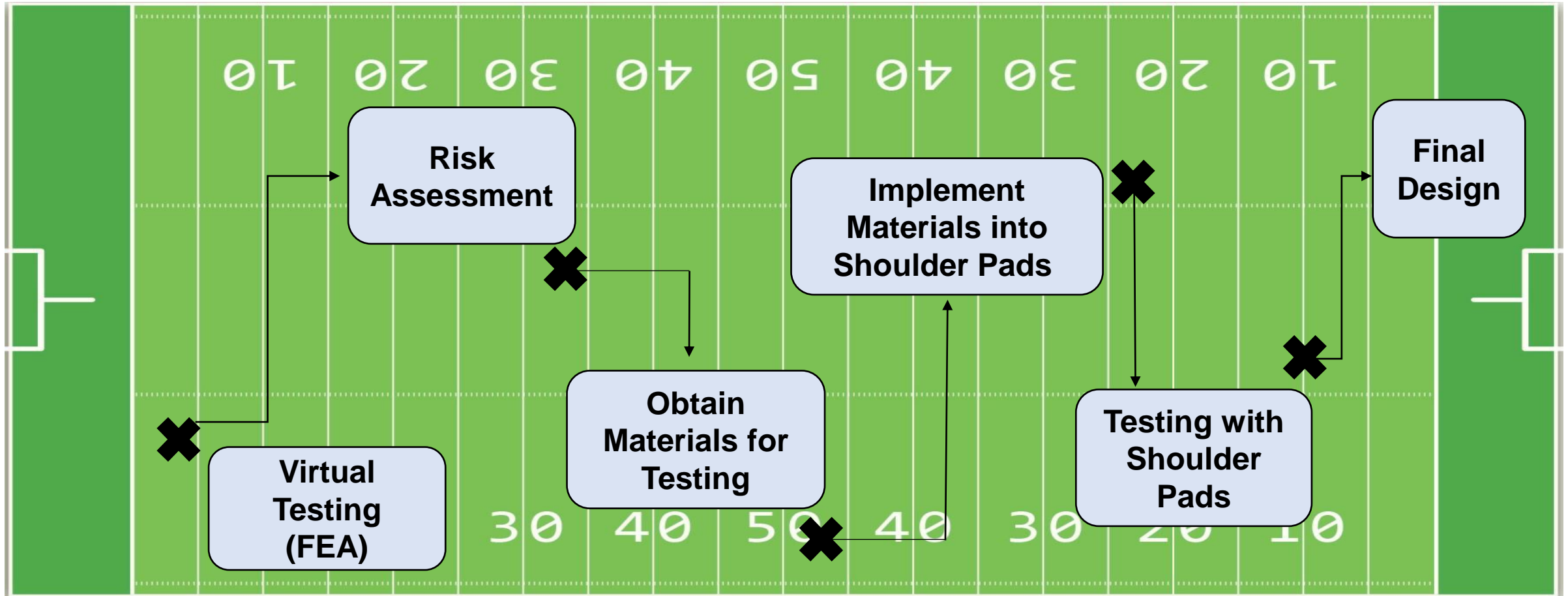
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# Selected Concept



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# Future Work



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# Questions



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