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Dojan et al.

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(54) **SOLE STRUCTURES AND ARTICLES OF FOOTWEAR HAVING A LIGHTWEIGHT MIDSOLE MEMBER WITH PROTECTIVE ELEMENTS**

(71) Applicant: **NIKE, Inc.**, Beaverton, OR (US)

(72) Inventors: **Frederick J. Dojan**, Vancouver, WA (US); **Matthew J. Holmes**, Portland, OR (US); **Troy C. Lindner**, Portland, OR (US); **Benjamin Nethongkome**, Beaverton, OR (US); **Dolores S. Thompson**, Beaverton, OR (US)

(73) Assignee: **NIKE, Inc.**, Beaverton, OR (US)

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Primary Examiner — Anna Kinsaul

Assistant Examiner — Cameron A Carter

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An article of footwear includes an upper and a sole structure engaged with the upper. The sole structure includes a polymeric foam member for supporting an entire plantar surface of a wearer's foot, and this polymeric foam member is formed from a foam material having a density of less than 0.25 g/cm³. The foam material forms an exposed side surface of the sole structure. The sole structure further includes a protective member engaged with the polymeric foam member to cover at least 60% of a surface area of a bottom surface of the polymeric foam member. This protective member constitutes a web base surface with traction elements extending downward therefrom, and a thickness of a majority of the web base surface at locations between the traction elements is less than 2 mm thick.

16 Claims, 27 Drawing Sheets

