

Grove City College senior's start-up included in Inc. magazine



By Robbie Byrd (http://wkbn.com/author/linrobbiebyrd/)

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GROVE CITY, Pa. (WKBN) — Samantha Weber is a trailblazer in the entrepreneurial field.

The Grove City College senior's company, ProfilePasser, was recently included on Inc. Magazine's list of "America's Coolest College Startups of 2014." It was one of just 16 college start-ups selected for the list and is part of a March Madness-themed contest.

ProfilePasser is a mobile app that enables high school athletes and college recruiters to connect on the field. It allows athletes and coaches to check in, see which scouts are attending an event and exchange information with them.

Inc. Magazine's "Sweet 16" list is the jumping-off point for a contest to identify the top college start-ups of 2014. For the next several weeks, people can vote online for their favorite start-ups.

Each week, the field will be narrowed until a championship round in early April. The winner will receive free tickets to Inc.'s 2014 Growco conference in Nashville, Tenn. in May.

Weber's startup has made it to the final four. You can vote for ProfilePasser <u>here</u> (http://www.inc.com/diana-ransom/inc-announces-final-four-in-coolest-college-startups-competition.html?cid=sf01001).

(http://www.inc.com/diana-ransom/sweet-16-vote-now-for-your-favorite-college-startup.html)

"To say the least, I was completely shocked and humbled to make the Sweet 16," Weber said in a news release from the college. "Now that we have made it, I am so excited for what this is doing for my business. Getting national recognition like this only adds credibility to what we are doing and helps the business grow."

Weber is an English major and a member of Grove City College's women's soccer team. Her athletic background was part of the inspiration for ProfilePasser.

"Like many others, my dream was to play Division I soccer, but when I was old enough to start getting attention from college recruiters, I learned a heartbreaking lesson: It takes more than talent to play at the next level, it takes exposure," Weber said. "Suddenly it hit me. Athletes need a platform that could connect them like LinkedIn and show them who else was around them based on geographical location like Foursquare and, just like that, ProfilePasser was born."

ProfilePasser launched its mobile app in September 2013 and now has more than 700 athletes and 50 college coaches registered. The company also has partnered with the Club Champions League in Maryland and Virginia and is quickly gaining interest at other recruiting events.

In February, the first soccer player was recruited after using the ProfilePasser app at a showcase tournament. ProfilePasser was one of nine companies to participate in Pittsburgh's leading startup business accelerator, AlphaLab, which provided a \$25,000 investment. The company is currently in the process of raising \$300,000 in seed money.

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