Ryan Pegler

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: Gies College of Business   *Expected Graduation: May 2026*
Bachelor of Science in Finance and Information Systems   **GPA: 3.66/4.00**
Bocconi University: Milan, Italy   *January 2025 – May 2025*
Exchange Program: Finance, Technology, and Management Courses

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

OpenField   **Chicago, Illinois**
Founder | CEO   *June 2025-Present*
- Developed a platform to connect underrepresented collegiate athletes with local businesses for personalized NIL deals
- Built and maintained 100+ strategic relationships with clients, leveraging data insights to drive athlete exposure
- Budgeted, forecasted, and processed payouts for athletes and businesses, ensuring 100% financial accuracy

Prairie Road Partners   **Chicago, Illinois**
Intern   *May 2024-August 2024*
- Executed deal sourcing and proprietary review for 1,000+ companies, leveraging Excel to identify acquisition targets
- Produced 20+ detailed reports leading to actionable insights and strategic recommendations for healthcare acquisitions
- Conducted in-depth market research across multiple sectors, presenting findings that informed investment decisions

Illini Blockchain   **Champaign, Illinois**
Investment Analyst   *January 2024-Present*
- Analyzed blockchain-based assets and decentralized finance projects, identifying high-growth investment opportunities
- Developed and presented 10+ research reports on emerging technologies, providing insights into their market impacts
- Engaged in a comprehensive bootcamp process focused on DeFi fundamentals and their real-world applications

LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

Illinois Sports Consulting Agency   **Champaign, Illinois**
Consultant   *January 2024-May 2024*
- Conducted market analysis for a local sports business and proposed strategies to optimize their application services
- Presented actionable data insights to enhance brand visibility and increase customer satisfaction

HEDGE: Equities, Options, and Alternatives   **Champaign, Illinois**
Analyst   *January 2024-May 2024*
- Analyzed equities and derivatives data to gain practical insights into real-world asset performance
- Engaged in weekly interactive lessons on equity valuation, financial markets, and portfolio optimization

Investment Portfolio Organization   **Champaign, Illinois**
Investment Analyst   *October 2023-December 2023*
- Selected into premier finance organization to participate in weekly lessons involving professional development, accounting, investment strategies, and company valuation methodologies to enhance investment portfolio management skills
- Delivered weekly market updates and a final stock pitch to faculty while managing a 2nd-ranked investment portfolio

Kappa Delta Rho - ETA Chapter   **Champaign, Illinois**
Treasurer | Social Chair   *September 2022-May 2024*
- Re-founded chapter by leading networking events and recruiting 32 members in first year on campus
- Managed a $10,000+ annual budget while organizing and budgeting for 30+ fraternity events

Special Olympics Illinois   **Villa Park, Illinois**
Volunteer   *November 2021-February 2022*
- Coached 20+ participants and officiated games for Special Olympics basketball team, prioritizing their well-being

PROJECTS

Fundamental   **Chicago, Illinois**
Developer   *August 2025*
- Built a simplified AI-powered investment platform that tailors stock selections based on personalized market sentiment

Upside   **Champaign, Illinois**
Developer | Data Analyst   *April 2024*
- Developed an immersive data-driven model that accurately evaluates draft prospects using machine learning

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Key Skills: Market Research - Data Analysis - Microsoft Suite - Python - SQL - Financial Modeling - Leadership
Career Interests: Investment Management - Asset Management - Data Analytics - FinTech - Quantitative Finance
Other Interests: Basketball - Football - Soccer - Baseball - Golf - Travel - Movies - Coaching