

MONDAY, APRIL 5 1993



Investment Challenge

The winners in the USA TODAY-CNBC National Investment Challenge that ended Wednesday are divided into two categories, amateur and professional. Each contestant received an imaginary \$500,000 Jan 4. Participants can buy, sell or short sell any exchange-listed stock or option. No more than \$200,000 can be invested in one stock.

AMATEURS

TOP STOCK PICKERS

Name	Hometown	Account Value
Jerry Bergkamp	Aurora, Colo.	\$1,036,248
Larry Wilson	Shawnee Mission, Kan.	\$958,214
Jerry Rearnese	Batavia, Ill.	\$933,405
Paul Slack	Aurora, Colo.	\$904,605
John Rudwall	Dayton, Ohio	\$809,801

TOP OPTIONS TRADERS

Name	Hometown	Account Value
Mike Shymanski	Wis. Rapids, Wis.	\$10,594,483
Hohn Ehart	Santa Barbara, Calif.	\$7,255,405
Philip Kubinski	Joliet, Ill.	\$6,567,195
Marvin Miller	Sugarcreek, Ohio	\$5,482,500
William Brackett	Bridgeport, Conn.	\$4,618,187

Source: Wall Street Portfolios

PROFESSIONALS

TOP STOCK PICKERS

Name	Hometown	Account Value
John Gaughan	Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.	\$1,137,267
Brad Dunlap	Jupiter, Fla.	\$1,029,378
Ray Hovland	Apopka, Fla.	\$920,020
Michael Morris	New York	\$893,587
John Liviakis	Sacramento	\$885,946

TOP OPTIONS TRADERS

Name	Hometown	Account Value
Kevin Murphy	Marletta, Ga.	\$10,391,942
Menoni Izelyamu	Dallas	\$6,113,628
Michael Bronzino	Princeton, N.J.	\$4,996,000
Ted Gil	Modesto, Calif.	\$4,869,932
Mark Hayes	Gaithersburg, Md.	\$4,413,747

PLAYERS VS. THE AVERAGES

Stock Index	Value Wednesday	Change From Dec. 31
S&P 100	414.36	+4.5%
Dow Industrials	3435.11	+4.1%
S&P 500	451.67	+3.7%
Pro stock players average	\$480,902	-3.8%
Amateur stock players average	\$456,494	-8.7%
Amateur options players average	\$363,423	-27.3%
Pro options players average	\$326,742	-34.7%

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1992



Investment Challenge

Here are the top 10 stocks and options winners in the USA TODAY-CNBC/FNN National Investment Challenge that ran through the fourth quarter – Oct.1 through Tuesday. Each contestant received an imaginary \$500,000 stake Oct. 1. Participants could buy, sell or short sell any exchange-listed stock or option. No more than \$200,000 could be invested in one stock. Contestants were limited to 100 trades during the quarter. On average, contestants in the stocks division fared far better than contestants in the options division – through the higher risk brought bigger gains for the options contest winners.

TOP STOCK PICKERS

Name	Hometown	Account Value
John Lesner	Warren, Mich.	\$1,960,715
Doron Gahtan	Toronto	\$1,927,948
Mary Wallace	Rockville, Md.	\$1,786,757
Keith Lihou	Bala, Ontario	\$1,734,042
Geoffrey Elten	Boston	\$1,491,895
Robert H. Potter	Farmington, Utah	\$1,247,757
Eric Stapleman	Marina Del Rey, Calif.	\$1,239,236
John Liviakis	Sacramento	\$1,181,126
Lawrence Turel	Boca Raton, Fla.	\$1,177,345
Joe Cavallaro	Corning, N.Y.	\$1,152,503

TOP OPTIONS TRADERS

Name	Hometown	Account Value
Kent Davis	Portland, Ore.	\$20,665,662
John Wingert	St. Louis	\$11,212,597
Ian Rappaport	Union, N.J.	\$10,006,303
Won Sul	Chicago	\$7,837,827
Ruth Golden	Corbin, Ky.	\$7,779,400
Brad Lee	New York	\$7,656,915
Randall Joseph	Lansing, Mich.	\$6,421,676
Mike McKelvy	Littleton, Colo.	\$6,291,844
Rupert H. Boeselt	Loft, Texas	\$5,884,017
Joe Wiloxen	Colorado Springs	\$5,760,507

PLAYERS VS. THE AVERAGES

Stock Index	Values on Tuesday	Change From Dec. 31
S&P 100	417.09	+7.2%
S&P 500	385.57	+5.7%
Dow Industrials	3168.83	+5.0%
Average stock player's portfolio	\$456,494	-8.7%
Average stock option player's portfolio	\$363,423	-27.3%

Source: Wall Street Portfolios

Sunday, January 12, 1992

The Sacramento Bee

BUSINESS

JOB MARKET

SUNDAY

SHOPTALK

It's a gift

Lots of folks say they have a knack for picking stocks. John Liviakis can back up his claim.

The founder of Liviakis Financial Communications of Sacramento recently placed eighth in a national stock picking contest sponsored by USA Today.

He won a \$1,500 prize after turning a "paper" portfolio valued at \$500,000 into one worth \$1,180,000 over a 90-day period at the end of 1991.

"It was exciting because it was an objective way to see who in the industry has the best (stock-picking) skills," said Liviakis, whose firm helps companies tell their stories to brokers and shareholders.

So, now that he's a certified expert on the subject, what are Liviakis' picks for the hottest stocks for the rest of the year?

He says he likes three over-the-counter stocks: Standard Microsystems Corp., which closed Friday with a bid price of $7\frac{5}{8}$; Quadrax Corp., which closed at $1\frac{1}{16}$; and Sinecure Financial Corp., $1\frac{5}{8}$.

Inefficient Pricing of Small-Cap Stocks Leads to Bargains

By John Liviakis

The essence of my forthcoming book, *The Art of Stock Selection*, emphasizes two concepts: market efficiency, or “random walk” phenomenon, and small market capitalization.

In order to beat the system, I have found one has to focus and screen these key variables before anything else is analyzed.

The market efficiency theory states that picking stocks is a virtually random exercise because the investment community can access the same information and therefore subsequent trading response adjusts the price as a reflection, “efficiently” pricing the stock at that point in time. If a stock (based on this accessible information) appears undervalued, this might signal an underlying problem which is not being perceived, but “smart” money is the source of suppressive supply. There is a great deal of validity to this theory, though its case is somewhat overstated because it assumes everyone has access to, reads, interprets, and responds to the information identically.

This “random walk” theory applies most accurately to high-cap, high-visibility stocks which attract institutions, analysts, advisory publications, foreign investors, etc. These investors usually pay a far too high

premium for liquidity. Risk is supposedly reduced by concentration on large, mature, high-market-share companies that have already established a length track record.

It has been statistically proven for many years that small-cap stocks outperform big-cap stocks by an impressive margin. In the so-called “great bull market” over the last few years (pre-October '87), this capitalization performance discrepancy has at least temporarily reversed directions. Large capitalization stocks have been well supported by foreign investors, takeover fever, and mutual funds with record capital, while small capitalization stocks have been ignored.

This is mainly due to the usual contiguity of small stocks – the small investor – buying mutual funds instead of listening to the consistently horrible advice of brokers and advisory publications, and the fact that the new issue market six years ago was exploited by big underwriters flooding the market with outrageously “capped” IPOs and secondaries. The OTC, and more specifically the high-tech market, has never been and never will be quite the same.

Sunday, April 11, 1993

The Sacramento Bee

BUSINESS

JOB MARKET

Top investor is bullish

Sacramento financial communicator John Liviakis has done it again.

As we reported last year, Liviakis placed eighth in a national stock-picking contest sponsored by USA Today. Now, in a new USA Today contest, he has placed 5th.

Using an imaginary grubstake of \$500,000, Liviakis acquired a portfolio that appreciated to nearly \$900,000 during the first quarter. The winner of the contest generated \$1.14 million.

Liviakis, whose firm handles corporate communications and financial matters for six publicly traded companies, credits his success to a lifetime of tracking stocks, and an ability to assess management.

So what does this expert think of the prospect for the stock market?

In a word, he's bullish – even though the Dow is near historical highs.

“It's a stock picker's market,” he said, noting that prices of many tech companies have come down dramatically in recent months. “There are a lot of stocks that are undervalued.”

BIG INC



BIOTECH INVESTMENT NEWSLETTER

BIOTECHNOLOGY INVESTORS GROUP Vol. 1. No. 3 Nov. 1993

HEALTH CARE REFORM: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THE CAPITAL MARKETS

Another way in which the Clinton health care reform plan may favor the biotechs is in the area of approval time for new drugs. According to John Liviakis, company spokesperson for Lidak Pharmaceuticals, the administration is more concerned about monitoring the prices of the "older" drugs that are selling at higher prices in the United States than in other countries creating evidence of price gauging in an effort to exploit both the public and private health insurance systems. However, as Liviakis points out, the administration has given the biotech industry some real indications that they are truly interested in speeding up the approval process for new drugs as this will ultimately reduce the costs of health care. He noted that factored into the cost of any drug are all the expenses incurred in bringing it to market that includes R&D, production and the long and very costly approval process. "The approval process presents a very big gamble for any company to undertake and it also discourages investors," commented Liviakis. Liviakis feels that it is not the intention of the administration to impede the growth of the biotech industry but rather to enhance the environment for the future growth of an industry in which the American companies hold a superior position and are breaking new ground that will materially improve the quality of life for all.