

By John Del Vecchio



New Trades this week:

Buy Burnham Holdings, Inc. (BURCA) Sell Financial Institutions, Inc. (FISI)

Current Portfolio April 8, 2024

Ticker	Name	Return	Days Held	Sector
AVT	Avnet, Inc.	0.64%	207	Technology
BURCA	Burnham Holdings, Inc.	0.00%	NEW	Industrials
CIVB	Civista Bancshares, Inc.	1.35%	151	Finance
FUSB	First US Bancshares, Inc.	6.37%	4	Finance
HVT	Haverty Furniture Cos., Inc.	20.99%	326	Consumer Cyclicals
MCEM	The Monarch Cement Co.	28.57%	207	Non-Energy Materials
PSX	Phillips 66	81.73%	333	Energy
THFF	First Financial Corp. (Indiana)	9.37%	311	Finance
VLO	Valero Energy Corp.	41.94%	172	Energy
WEYS	Weyco Group, Inc.	23.12%	144	Consumer Cyclicals



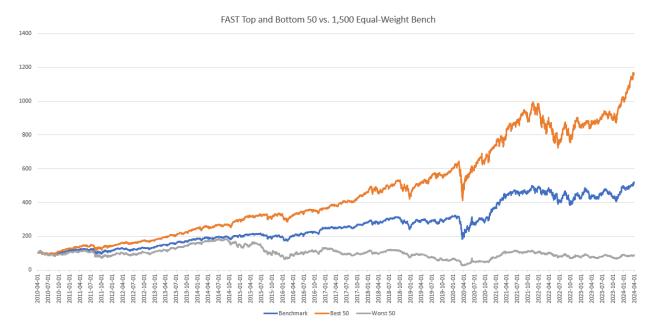
Earnings Quality (Still) Matters

I did not update the real-time performance chart for *the Forensic* Accounting Stock Tracker (FAST) last week for subscribers to Max Profits and Microcap Millions.

I have posted the updated chart below.

The most obvious conclusion I come to by looking at the chart is that earnings quality *still* matters.

The "A" rated stocks scored from my methodology vastly outperformed the S&P 500 and, more importantly, the "F" rated stocks.



Most recently, even as the S&P 500 has been dominated by just a handful of stocks (AKA "The Magnificent Seven"), which makes it difficult to outperform the index, the spread between the "best" stocks in my model and the S&P 500 has *widened*.

Meanwhile, the "F" ranked stocks remain dogs with fleas.

I point this out not to pat myself on the back but because doing fundamental work can still generate outperformance with less risk.

Earnings quality metrics are used in all the stock-picking models I present in the various newsletters I produce through Dent.

I'm often asked if earnings quality still matters because we are far removed from the frauds of Enron and Tyco, and the regulatory environment should help prevent such wide-scale manipulation of the numbers.

However, if someone wants to cheat here or there to buy a penny of earnings or commit outright fraud, there's no stopping them.

Regulations don't matter.

Human nature never changes.

Greed will always exist in the markets.

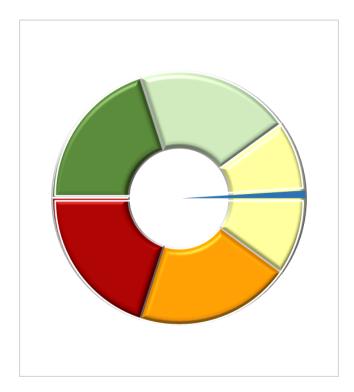
Having a methodology to separate the wheat from the chaff in the market will help investors greatly.

The challenge is to *use* that methodology.

The Risk-O-Meter remains unchanged.

However, the market is overbought here with too much bullish sentiment.

As a result, I continue to be patient.



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