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FUTURE FOCUS

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Relevance of Joseph D Piotroski in Today's market

DIGITIAN VIEW?

enjoying you stalwart of small capsules **Investors** and brushing up your investment funda. In my Investor Guru Series, will discuss another philosophies Investor, JOSEPH d PIOTRISKI - A Professor of Accounting in Finance in Stanford Graduate Business School his relevance in Today's Market.

Joseph Periotroski is known for his

Periotroski F score model published in
2000. The model got the attention of the
Investment community for his 2000
paper, Value Investing: The Use of
Historical Financial Statement
Information to Separate Winners from
Losers, which appeared in the Journal of
Accounting Research. This score is now
overwhelmingly used as a selection
basis for stocks.

This model examined whether an accounting-based fundamental analysis

this driven stock selection strategy, when applied to a broad portfolio of high book-to-market firms, could impact returns for investors. The Piotroski F-score is a 9-point valuation metric the derived on this research.

He began by limiting his search to firms whose book/market ratios (the inverse of the price/book ratio) were in the top 20% of the market. He then ran those firms through an array of tests involving their balance sheets and income statements, using nine metrics.

Through back-testing, Piotroski found that buying the top stocks in the market according to his methodology and shorting those that got the worst scores would have resulted in 23% annualized gains from 1976 through 1996, more than double the S&P 500 broad market index return. The strategy appears to be robust across time and to controls for alternative investment strategies.

Within the portfolio of high BM firms, the benefits to financial statement analysis are concentrated in small

"...It is a great opportunity to get access to the long term Investors' investment book with a research capsule, buy/hold/sell real time guidance, and get a return of 20%-60% 6-12 months - this is the unique offer Surrogate Investor brings "

MARKET WATCH

Nasdaq 11634 10772 -7.4% -25.6% 21.4% FTSE 100 7386 6936 -6.1% -0.4% 14.8% Shanghai Compsite 3238 3051 -5.8% -11.0% 4.8% NIFTY 18005 17569 -2.4% 3.7% 16.4% Nairobi SE 20 1787 1695 -5.1% -5.9% 1.7% Egypt SE 30 10397 10163 -2.3% -13.0% 10.2%	Equity Indices	Monthly Open	Monthly Close	Monthly Change %	2022%	2021%
FTSE 100 7386 6936 -6.1% -0.4% 14.89 Shanghai Compsite 3238 3051 -5.8% -11.0% 4.89 NIFTY 18005 17569 -2.4% 3.7% 16.49 Nairobi SE 20 1787 1695 -5.1% -5.9% 1.79 Egypt SE 30 10397 10163 -2.3% -13.0% 10.29	S&P	3932	3719	-5.4%	-17.5%	26.9%
Shanghai Compsite 3238 3051 -5.8% -11.0% 4.89 NIFTY 18005 17569 -2.4% 3.7% 16.49 Nairobi SE 20 1787 1695 -5.1% -5.9% 1.79 Egypt SE 30 10397 10163 -2.3% -13.0% 10.29	Nasdaq	11634	10772	-7.4%	-25.6%	21.4%
NIFTY 18005 17569 -2.4% 3.7% 16.49 Nairobi SE 20 1787 1695 -5.1% -5.9% 1.7% Egypt SE 30 10397 10163 -2.3% -13.0% 10.29	FTSE 100	7386	6936	-6.1%	-0.4%	14.8%
Nairobi SE 20 1787 1695 -5.1% -5.9% 1.7% Egypt SE 30 10397 10163 -2.3% -13.0% 10.2%	Shanghai Compsite	3238	3051	-5.8%	-11.0%	4.8%
Egypt SE 30 10397 10163 -2.3% -13.0% 10.29	NIFTY	18005	17569	-2.4%	3.7%	16.4%
	Nairobi SE 20	1787	1695	-5.1%	-5.9%	1.7%
Tanzania All Shares 1905 1884 -1.1% 0.4% 4.5%		10397	10163	-2.3%	-13.0%	10.2%
21270 01770 7107	Tanzania All Shares	1905	1884	-1.1%	0.4%	4.5%
Nigeria SE 30 1770 1630 -7.9% 2.8% 4.9%	Nigeria SE 30	1770	1630	-7.9%	2.8%	4.9%
Morrocco All Shares 12417 11323 -8.8% -7.0% 18.39	Morrocco All Shares	12417	11323	-8.8%	-7.0%	18.3%
Bangladesh DSE 30 2353 2277 -3.2% -7.0% 21.7%	Bangladesh DSE 30	2353	2277	-3.2%	-7.0%	21.7%

Commodity	Monthly Open	Monthly Close	Monthly Change %	2022%	2021 %
Gold	1711	1650	-3.6%	-9.79%	-3.8%
Crude Oil	92.87	90.26	-2.8%	16.48%	49.8%
WTI Oil	87.06	82.69	-5.0%	9.51%	56.2%
Copper	3.53	3.34	-5.4%	-24.43%	25.6%
Irone Ore	101.43	95.21	-6.1%	-15.37%	-27.8%
Aluminium	2306	2182	-5.4%	-22.10%	41.5%

nd medium-sized firms, companies with low share turnover, and firms with no analyst following.

Secondly, the market initially underreacts to the historical information. the evidence suggests that the market does not fully incorporate historical financial information into prices in a timely manner.

 $F_SCORE = F_ROA + F \triangle ROA + F_CFO + F_ACCRUAL + F_\Delta$ $MARGIN + F_\Delta TURN + F_\Delta LEVER + F_\Delta LIQUID + EQ OFFER.$

Where Variables are:

MVE = Closing Market Value of Equity
ROA = Net Income Before Extraordinary
items scaled by Opening Total Assets
△ ROA = Change in ROA over past year
CFO = Cash Flow from Operation scaled
by Total Assets

△ Margin = Gross Margin (Net Sales less Cost of goods sold) scaled by Net Sles ACCRUAL = Net Income Before Extraordinary items less Cash Flow Operation scaled by Total Assets △ LIQUID = Change in the firm's current ratio

▲TURN = Change in the firm's Turnover ratio

△ LEVER= Change in the Firm's Debt to Assets Ratio

Figure 2:

Given the nine underlying signals, F_SCORE can range from a low of 0 to a high of 9, where a low (high) F_SCORE represents a firm with very few (mostly) good signals.

It is statistically proven with 14403 companies, that high F score companies has better return over a period of 20 years, refer Figure 2.

It does not necessarily mean that all high F score companies will have higher future performance. It shows that close to 2% of the High F score companies D-list within next 2 years. However Low F Score companies have 5x higher chances.

This model is not meant for evaluating the performance prospects of individual "value" firms. However, investors can use relevant historical information to eliminate firms with poor future prospects from a generic high BM portfolio.

It is also seen that firms with strong historical improvements in asset turnover and margins earn the strongest future returns

Periotroski's F Score is the first order condition and helps us to concentrate on right sizing the sample for value investing portfolio. However, Other qualitative factors for value investing are the required secondary conditions to select Individual stocks in the Portfolio.

Happy investing.

		Proportion of Firms with	
	Mean ROA _{t+1}	Performance Delisting	n
All firms	-0.014	0.0427	14,043
F_SCORE			
0	-0.080	0.070	57
1	-0.079	0.106	339
2	-0.065	0.079	859
3	-0.054	0.064	1618
4	-0.034	0.052	2462
5	-0.010	0.036	2787
6	0.006	0 <mark>.</mark> 032	2579
7	0.018	0.028	1894
8	0.028	0.017	1115
9	0.026	0.021	333
High-Low Diff.	0.106	-0.083	_
(t-statistic)	(15.018)	(-7.878)	_

COUNTRY DATA

			GDP	
Countries	GDP (USD	Market Cap	Growth	Inflation
	Bn)	(USD Bn)	2022 %	%
USA	23420	48264	2.6%	8.20%
China	16000	7620	3.2%	3.5%
India	3050	3210	6.8%	7.4%
Egypt	340	49	6.6%	8.50%
Kenya	107	23	5.5%	7.5%
Tanzania	62	7	5.0%	4.8%
Morocco	122	11	2.0%	8.30%
Nigeria	445	54	3.10%	20.2%
Bangladesh	400	68	7.2%	6.20%

Forex	Monthly Open	Monthly Close	Monthly Change %	2022%	2021%
EUR USD	0.997	0.983	-1.40%	-13.16%	-6.7%
GBP USD	1.148	1.130	-1.59%	-16.54%	-1.0%
USD INR	79.580	82.350	-3.36%	-9.56%	-1.9%
USD KES	120.250	121.100	-0.70%	-6.57%	-3.0%
USD EG POUND	19.180	19.680	-2.54%	-20.17%	0.8%
USD TZS	2332	2332	0.00%	-1.16%	0.6%
USD NAIRA	428.000	436.350	-1.91%	-5.76%	-7.3%
USD TAKA	102.430	101.700	0.72%	-15.71%	-0.8%



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BEST CHART OF THE MONTH



Vj g'above ej ct v'tij qy u'the Social Media Penetration accross the world

While the below chart shows the world most used social platforms. Which shows the digital link between the entire world and the growing dependence of communication and Advertisement dollar following the social media.

THE WORLD'S MOST-USED SOCIAL PLATFORMS INNOCOS SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOST GLOBA INMIDIONS INNOCOS SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOST GLOBA INMIDIONS INDICATOR SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOST GLOBA INMIDIONS INDICATOR SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOST GLOBA INMIDIONS INDICATOR SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOST GLOBA INMIDIONS INDICATOR SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOST GLOBA INMIDIONS INDICATOR SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOST GLOBA INMIDIONS INDICATOR SOCIAL MERIA RATIONAS IN GLOBA ACTITIC SOCIAL MERIA IN GLOBA AC

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VALUE INVESTING

Debashish Neogi

The Art of investing in small cap (Part 1)

The smaller the company, the more should be the focus on management and investor met him before looking for qualitative analysis. CEOs of small microcap companies tend to wear a bunch of hats, so their influence is much greater than larger companies. Founders are the difference makers.

Intelligent Fanatic = (Long Term Vision + Focus + Energy + Integrity + Intelligence) x Execution

The combination of all these traits multiplied by execution is what makes an "intelligent fanatic". Many investors mistake an executive with charisma for being an intelligent fanatic. The microcap space in particular is filled with snake oil salesman and executives that talk too much and do too little. Do not mistake a story telling, charismatic CEO as an intelligent fanatic. In fact, many intelligent fanatics are not charismatic. Intelligent fanatics let their execution do the talking.

For a small micro-cap company to be a market leader, it must dominate a small market. I want to own businesses that dominate a small market that is expanding. This normally pushes quality attributes down to the financial.

Above are the words of Ian Cassel, it looks like it has been written keeping Rahul Nachane, MD of NGL Finechem in mind .Rahul doesn't sell his company nor is charismatic

In fact someone who is a very good investment in NGL commented "thakela with no fire in the belly". He felt the management running the business were not aggressive and very passive. Having said that "execution" have done the talking for Rahul. The past performance of NGL, on any time frame speaks for itself. (Figure 1).

Lets analyze NGL basis Ian Cassels **Intelligent Fanatic model.**

1) Long term Vision: NGL took a very different & unique strategic approach to business. They carved out a niche in unregulated market .They operate in this space with products which has 7-8 chemical processes focusing on quality, cost and timely delivery. They have 99% customer stickiness for over more than last 2 decades. They currently have around 35 people in R&D s, which is 10% of the total work force.

NGL acquired Macrotech for a cash consideration of INR 7 cr and invested further (Total 2INR 5 cr) aimed in providing supply of intermediates for its existing API

Figure 1

Compounded Sales Growt	h	Compounded Profit Growt	h	Stock Price CAGR		Return on Equity	
10 Years:	24%	10 Years:	48%	10 Years:	57%	10 Years:	27%
5 Years:	26%	5 Years:	29%	5 Years:	33%	5 Years:	28%
3 Years:	28%	3 Years:	37%	3 Years:	40%	3 Years:	30%

"In case of mastering the art of investing in small cap, the most important focus be on Founders/ management and their execution skills - whther they are intelligent fanatics who are less charismatic but more believe walking the talk"

products

It is also expanding a new factory in Tarapur for which civil work have started in full swing .Its going to invest Rs 140 cr (debt and equity mix of 2:1) in modular fashion. First the "intermediates set up" would be ready in the factory by May 23. The new factory is being made keeping regulated markets (like North America -the largest market for animal healthcare)in mind

2) Focus –For more than 2 decades for NGL, the strategy was to focus on the core which is unregulated Animal API market.

Then they extended to adjacent vertical in the sector which is the poultry market.

Now the strategy is slowly get into regulated market.

In all these years there was laser sharp focus on cost and return ratio. NGL is an excellent allocator of capital which is reflected in ROCE/ ROE over long period of time.

Richa Jha of Equitymaster.com puts it very aptly

"You see, for successful investment results, one thing that is most critical, and at the same time, most tricky to assess, is management quality. This is truer for small-cap companies as compared to their larger peers. That's because while bigger companies can run on the auto pilot mode, the management of small-cap companies is a critical make or break factor. Also, to spot such managements, we need to interact/meet with them. I believe it's often small unconscious details. gestures statements rather than their talk on media channels or interviews in the financial dailies that reveal the true person. For instance, you will find a lot of managements talking big about cost consciousness, adopting fancy Japanese six sigma practices, hiring a prestigious

consultancy firm (and paying them crazy amount) for suggestions on cost savings. The same managements, however, can be seen making an obscene amount of expense on areas that will do nothing to improve the firm's productivity. This includes setting up offices at the poshest locations, lavish office interiors, obscene expenses during AGMs and analyst meetings"

It may seem like I'm nit-picking, but for small caps, these seemingly random details are quite telling.

It's the small things that give you big clues whether the management tends to walk the talk"

3) Energy –Definitely it is not visible in body language of Rahul but action speaks louder than voice.

Rahul appeared extremely humble, feet on ground person.

After being in the business for over 3 decades, he still visits the factory once in a week on a Tuesday travelling almost 5 hours by car. Last month in one such visit we joined him,. He and his son Aahan picked us up and later dropped us to our hotel. We spend a full day where we got to know him more as a person.

Below are some pictures of the new factory expansion.





to be continued





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