CTE RESEARCH SHEET

The U.S. Investing Championship

Every verified result, every division, and what the leaderboard hides

1983–1997 and 2019–present · Standings through 31 July 2026 · Compiled 7 September 2026

What this sheet is

A compressed reference for the only long-running public trading leaderboard whose numbers are checked against brokerage statements. It carries the modern results, the documented fragments of the original era, the source-confidence grading, and the month-by-month findings that do not appear anywhere in the contest's own coverage.

Full write-up, live tables and the interactive explorer: completetradersedge.com/us-investing-championship/

Structure in one box

Founded	1983, by Dr Norman Zadeh, as the U.S. Trading Championship
Paused / restarted	Mid-1990s amid an SEC investigation. Restarted 2019
Format	Calendar-year, real-money, time-weighted percentage return
Verification	Brokerage statements, plus live account walkthroughs at the organiser's discretion
Account bands	\$20,000+ (USIC) and \$1,000,000+ (Money Manager Verified Ratings)
Divisions	Stock (no futures, no long options) and Enhanced Growth (futures and long options allowed). Four boards in total
Entry fee	\$475 (USIC) / \$1,000 (MMVR), 2026 sign-up page. No cash prize
Monthly listing	Optional. A competitor may appear only in the final standings
2026 field	704 entrants at the seven-month standings

The two numbers that should frame everything else

2022, ten months: 316 participants, 26 reporting a profit. Eight per cent.
2026, first half: 688 competitors, 115 reporting profits. Seventeen per cent, while the S&P 500 gained 10.2%.
Both figures are the organiser's own. They are the closest thing the archive offers to a denominator.

Modern winners by board, 2019–2025

Year	Entrants	\$1m+ Stock	\$1m+ Enh. Growth	\$20k+ Stock	\$20k+ Enh. Growth
2025	579	Law Wai-Sum (J Law) +252.3%	Bob Weissman (Minervini Private Access) +115.4%	Martin Luk +969.8%	Tito Adhikary (TTP) +2,115.1%
2024	451	Law Wai-Sum (J Law) +353.9%	Brandi Archer +90.7%	Judy Lai +449.1%	Brandon Frenchak +482.6%

Year	Entrants	$1m+ Stock	$1m+ Enh. Growth	$20k+ Stock	$20k+ Enh. Growth
2023	352	Tanmay Khandelwal (TwoX Capital) +129%	Maziyar Yousefizad (Derivatix / Fortune Reliance) +91.7%	Goverdhan Gajjala +805.1%	Anthony Maffei +309%
2022	326	Sam Bhatia +13.5%	Maziyar Yousefizad (Derivatix) +44.4%	Afzal Lokhandwala +447%	Hieu Tuong +200.3%
2021	338	Mark Minervini +334.8%	not recorded	Pavel P. Sterba +222.3%	Salvador Palma +186.3%
2020	124	George Tkaczuk +119.1%	Vivek Subramanyam +60.6%	Oliver Kell +941.1%	Kenneth He Huang +428.7%
2019	96	Sean Goodsell +10.1%	not recorded	Leif Soreide +60.9%	Travis Wilkerson +31.6%

2019–2022 are podium-level records rebuilt from the year-end releases. 2023–2025 are the organiser's complete published boards.

2026 in progress, through 31 July

Board	Leader	Second	Third
$20,000+ Stock	Tom Doub, Ph.D. (Arcadia Analytics) +982.3%	Martin Luk +868.6%	Victor M +256.9%
$20,000+ Enhanced Growth	Omar Barkawi +2,313%	Tito Adhikary, Ph.D. +1,626.6%	Emanuela Elias +230%
$1,000,000+ Stock	Jandy Lam (JMS Group) +60%	George Tkaczuk +38.1%	Sheri Marcus +31.9%
$1,000,000+ Enhanced Growth	Vikash Raniga +104.5%	Baran Kayhan +73.5%	Daniel Lee (45MinuteTrader) +54%

Original research: the path, not the destination

The organiser publishes a standing for every month of every modern year. Read in sequence rather than as an annual snapshot, they show that the headline figure is routinely well below the same trader's peak, and that the biggest interim numbers frequently never reach December at all.

Peak versus final

Trader	Year / board	Peak published	Final	Given back
Martin Luk	2025 · $20,000+ Stock	+1,358.2% (Nov)	**+969.8%**	388.4 pts
Bob Doviak	2025 · $20,000+ Enhanced Growth	+1,174.5% (Aug)	**+857.3%**	317.2 pts
Leos Mikulka	2024 · $20,000+ Stock	+960.4% (Nov)	**+409.6%**	550.8 pts
Gowthaman Vijayan	2025 · $20,000+ Stock	+262.5% (May)	**+42.5%**	220 pts

Leaders who stopped being published

Trader	Year / board	Peak published standing	Then
James Hatzigiannis	2024 · $20,000+ Stock	+584.9% (Jun)	Led the division at six months. Never published on another 2024 board.
Y. Chiu	2025 · $20,000+ Stock	+779.9% (Jul)	Led the division at seven months. Absent from every board thereafter.
Dr Terry Potter	2026 · $20,000+ Enhanced Growth	+1,678.8% (Mar)	A three-month record for any division. Absent from the April, May, June and July boards.
Tin Chun Jimmy Li	2026 · $20,000+ Stock	+431.5% (May)	Led the division from January. Absent from the June and July boards.

Monthly listing is voluntary, so an absence is not proof of a loss. It means the trader stopped appearing on the published board.

The winner is often invisible until December

2022. Gemy Zhou led the $20,000+ Stock Division at ten months on +406.7%. Afzal Lokhandwala, who won it on +447%, is not on that board at all.
2024. Judy Lai was fourth at eleven months on +384.7% and finished first on +449.1%.
2023. Goverdhan Gajjala is absent from the June, July and August boards, reappears at nine months on +266.5%, and finishes on +805.1%. Business Insider later documented seventeen consecutive losing trades and a month that closed down 44.4% in exactly that window.

Record book

Record	Holder	Result
Highest year-end return, any division	**Tito Adhikary, 2025**	+2,115.1% · $20k+ Enhanced Growth
Highest year-end return, $20k+ Stock	**Martin Luk, 2025**	+969.8% · passing Oliver Kell's +941.1% (2020)
Highest year-end return, $1m+ Stock	**Law Wai-Sum, 2024**	+353.9% · passing Minervini's +334.8% (2021)
Highest year-end return, $1m+ Enh. Growth	**Bob Weissman, 2025**	+115.4%
Highest three-month print	**Dr Terry Potter, Q1 2026**	+1,678.8% · interim only
Largest open interim print	**Omar Barkawi, seven months 2026**	+2,313% · still running
Two-year compound, $1m+ Stock	**Law Wai-Sum, 2024–25**	+1,499% vs S&P; 500 total return 47%
Two-year compound, $20k+ Stock	**Martin Luk, 2024–25**	+3,998% (organiser's figure)
Longest profitable run since restart	**Sean Ryan, 2019–2025**	7 of 7 profitable · +6,232% vs S&P; 500 +205%
Original-era record	**Robert Prechter, 1984**	+444.4% · four-month monitored options account

Original era, 1983 to the mid-1990s

No complete official table exists. Grades: A official or primary · B contemporaneous press · C first-person or book account · D secondary compilation · E uncorroborated.

Year / contest	Result	Source	Grade
1983, first contest	74 entrants. Marty Schwartz third in both futures and stocks/options	Pit Bull	**C**

Year / contest	Result	Source	Grade
1983, 1 Aug – 1 Dec	133 entrants. Schwartz sixth in futures +69.2%. Winner reported at +388.4%	Pit Bull	**C**
1983, overall	Frankie Joe, Champion Trader: +181.3% futures, +70.6% stocks and options	Pit Bull	**C**
1984, four-month options	Robert Prechter Jr +444.4%, monitored real-money options account	Prechter / EWI; press from 1985	**B/C**
1984	Marty Schwartz, widely reported at +781%	Schwager; later compilations	**C/D**
1985, stock division	David Ryan +161%	Schwager; LA Times 29 Jun 1986	**B/C**
1986	David Ryan, approximately +160%	Schwager	**C**
1987, two-year stocks	David Ryan first: $43,000 to $295,000, +578%. Up a further 90% after seven weeks of 1987	LA Times 1 Mar 1987	**B**
1987, one-year stocks	Robert Gunther +223.9%, broker at L.F. Rothschild	LA Times 1 Mar 1987	**B**
1987, overall	Robert Prion +232.6%	LA Times 6 Feb 1990	**B**
1997, stock division	Mark Minervini +155% on $250,000 of his own money	Minervini; organiser's 2021 release	**B**

Not re-verified against original clippings and not presented as confirmed: a 1989 stock title for Dennis Ardizzoni at +231.2% (under $50,000), Robert Prion +133.9% ($50,000+) the same year, and a 1990 second-place futures result of roughly +438% for Michael King preserved in a CFTC decision citing Barron's of 4 February 1991.

Three unresolved facts

1. When the first era ended. The November 2018 restart announcement says Zadeh ran the prior competitions "from 1983 through 1993." Every modern year-end release says the contest began in 1983 and ran fifteen years, which lands on 1997. Institutional Investor reports an SEC investigation in 1996 that effectively shut the contest down. Minervini's documented 1997 win is the only hard anchor.
2. David Ryan's years. Three mid-1980s titles is safe. The 1985/1986/1987 assignment is a compilation, not a source; Minervini's book recalls 1984–86, and Schwager records a 1986 second place.
3. The famous names with no numbers. Paul Tudor Jones, Louis Bacon, Edward O. Thorp and Mark Strome are listed by the organiser as prior participants. No primary source reviewed assigns any of them a year and a return.

The regulatory chapter

In or around 1992 Zadeh founded Prime Advisors with Jeffrey Goodstein and raised roughly $159 million from about 400 investors. The SEC's 1998 proceeding (Release 33-7560) found the respondents sold unregistered securities in six hedge fund limited partnerships and that Zadeh failed to keep required books and records. Civil penalties: $137,500 (Prime Advisors), $165,000 (Zadeh), $27,500 (Goodstein). Published contest results carried a telephone number, and callers were solicited into the partnerships.

How to read any number from this contest

1. Name the account band and the division, always. Four boards, not one.
2. Treat the published table as the right tail. 8% and 17% are the denominators on record.
3. Check the path before believing the destination.
4. Check for late entry. Scoring starts from the close on the day a competitor joins.

5. Returns are time-weighted, not money-weighted.
6. It is a verified leaderboard, not an audited composite or an allocatable track record.
7. Prefer multi-year strings over single spikes. Persistence is the skill signal.

Source map

Official standings and previous-standings archive at financial-competitions.com, including the full monthly series · year-end Business Wire releases, January 2020 onward · Los Angeles Times, 29 June 1986, 1 March 1987 and 6 February 1990 · Business Insider, 20 January 2024 (Gajjala, statements reviewed) · SEC Release 33-7560 · Institutional Investor, 29 October 2020 · Schwager, Market Wizards · Schwartz, Pit Bull · Elliott Wave International on Robert Prechter · Minervini, first-person.

Update policy: refreshed after each official year-end release, normally late January or early February, and once mid-year. Corrections and original 1983–1997 material welcome via completetradersedge.com/contact/.