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## Thursday's Biggest Stock Stars

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Hey there, Fools. I've summoned our [Motley Fool CAPS](#) community once again to highlight a few of Thursday's biggest winners among the stocks with [top ratings](#) of four or five stars:

Company	Yesterday's Gain
<b>Ebix</b> (Nasdaq: <a href="#">EBIX</a> )	8.73%
<b>Nokia</b> (NYSE: <a href="#">NOK</a> )	8.20%
<b>Melco Crown Entertainment</b>	5.60%
<b>Quicksilver Resources</b>	4.00%
<b>Berkshire Hathaway</b> (NYSE: <a href="#">BRK-A</a> ) (NYSE: <a href="#">BRK-B</a> )	3.74%

There's a reason I selected those notable gainers, as opposed to other winners making noise on Thursday, like one-star stock **Eastman Kodak**. Stocks go up all the time, but unless you were able to predict the pop, what does it matter?

Our community of more than 145,000 CAPS Fools considers its high-star stocks the most likely to outperform the market.

### Written in the (five) stars?

For example, 98.5% of the 261 All-Star members who've rated [Motley Fool Rule Breakers](#) pick [Ebix](#) have a bullish opinion of the stock. [Just last month](#), one of those top Fools, [JaysRage](#), highlighted the stock's recent weakness as a prime opportunity to pounce:

A successful, growing technology company that is trading at roughly 10x forward earnings after the recent pullback. There is no real reason for the pullback, except for a piling on of the short interest. ... The price has over-extended itself downward and allowed an opportunity to buy into a great growth story at a nice price.

Consistent with that call, shares of Ebix popped yesterday after the insurance industry software specialist announced strong cash flow growth in the fourth quarter and the resumption of its share buyback.

### The bullish lesson?

Learn to [think like a business owner](#), not a stock trader. Violent price swings aren't always easy on the stomach, but as CAPS' JaysRage understands, they provide a rare chance to *increase* the ownership of your companies at highly attractive prices. In [Warren Buffett's](#) words, "Only for short-term investors and market timers is a correction not an opportunity."

### And now for the losers ...

Of course, winning isn't everything in the stock market. Here are five of Thursday's biggest decliners with one- or two-star ratings:

Company	Yesterday's Loss
<b>Motorola</b> (NYSE: <a href="#">MOT</a> )	12.43%
<b>JetBlue Airways</b>	7.93%
<b>Symantec</b> (Nasdaq: <a href="#">SYMC</a> )	6.45%
<b>Palm</b>	5.90%
<b>AMR</b>	4.21%

While yesterday's drop in highly rated **Qualcomm** (Nasdaq: [QCOM](#)) may have caught our community off guard, low-ranked stocks are fully expected to fall hard.

### **Did CAPS call the fall?**

[This past summer](#), for instance, CAPS member [sdowst](#) had some tough things to say about [Motorola](#)'s top dogs:

Some of the worst management in the history of the company. Not only are they inept in their execution, but they suffer from a serious lack of product imagination. Icahn should have won his proxy battle. Maybe then the current management team would have been tossed out and replaced with managers tuned to building stockholder value.

In line with that bearishness, shares of the mobile handset giant plunged yesterday after a disappointing profit forecast overshadowed an otherwise decent fourth quarter.

### **The bearish takeaway?**

[Never overlook the jockey](#) when placing your bets. Like CAPS' [sdowst](#) understands, the quality of a company's management team can often predict how well it will perform as an investment. As value guru [Bruce Berkowitz](#) reminds us: "A bad person can cause you pain every time, no matter how good the company is. Management is important. They should have a paper trail of succeeding."

### **The final Foolish move**

Investors often focus strictly on stock price *movements*, without realizing that developing a proper stock-picking *process* counts most.

Over at Motley Fool CAPS, thousands of investors are Foolishly sharing insightful investment tips to help identify *tomorrow's* big movers. Over time, consistently reverse-engineering winning -- and losing -- stocks will help you retire wealthy.

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