

March, 2, 2017

# Under Armour Class A: UAA John Graziano

Company Description: Under Armour, Inc. engages in the developing, marketing and distributing of branded performance apparel, footwear and accessories for men, women and youth. It operates through the following geographical segments: North America; Latin America; Asia-Pacific; and Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The company was founded by Kevin A. Plank in 1996 and is headquartered in Baltimore, MD.



**Sector: Consumer Discretionary** 

Industry: Sporting Goods Current Price: \$16.88 Target Price: \$17.64

#### HOLD

Current Price:	\$16.88
Target Price:	\$17.64
Market Cap:	7.4B
Average Volume:	7.71M
D/E Ratio:	0.37
ROIC:	-1.03%
WACC:	12.95%
Short Interest:	31.8%/5 Days



#### Thesis:

Under Armour will attempt to build off a restructuring and recuperating year in 2017 to promote growth in the coming year. The company is positioned to expand into international markets where they currently only get 24% of their revenue. These higher growth channels will provide ample opportunity for growth in a less promotional environment. However, these promises are the same type of promises that management as under delivered on starting in the beginning of 2015. This along with the emergence of Adidas and resurgence of Nike make the hyper competitive retail industry even more competitive. Taking these factors into consideration UAA should see sideways price movement in 2018

# Catalysts:

- Short Term (within the year): Low earnings expectations for first half 2018
- Mid Term (1-2 years): Expansion into European and Asian markets. HOVR technology
- Long Term(3+): Emergence of Under Armour as a top-tier sports apparel company





## **Industry Performance and Outlook:**

The retail industry has been under pressure since the beginning of 2016 where the hyper competitive U.S industry began to eat into corporate profits. This lead to difficulties for all three of the major players in the sports apparel industry: Nike, Adidas, and Under Armour. However, the industry is poised for a turnaround, according to Deloitte:



"Today's retail trends are driven by the anticipation that consumers will spend confidently throughout 2018. Market growth is projected to reach a healthy 3.2 to 3.8 percent, with heated competition among store formats, channels, and players expected to continue."

The market projection of 3.2 to 3.8% growth is significant, but in order to sustain the growth levels needed to maintain the current valuation levels Under Armour needs to sustain growth of around ten percent. This would mean that Under Armour would need to be taking market share from Nike and Adidas which has proven very difficult for the company over the last couple of years. This issue coupled with the combination of the continued issue of the heated competition and high promotional activity will cause major problems for the company going forward.

## **Business Segments:**

Currently Under Armour breaks down its business segments geographically into four main segments, North America, EMEA, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. There is a fifth segment that has been recently created for Under Armor's connected fitness.

**North America:** The North American segment is the largest segment by far for Under Armour, comprising 76.5% of total revenue for the company.



The company sells branded apparel, footwear and accessories in North America through our wholesale and direct to consumer channels. Net revenues generated from the sales of UA products in the United States were \$3.6 billion, \$3.8 billion and \$3.3 billion for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 respectively.

**EMEA:** The EMEA segment is composed of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. This segment makes up 9.4% of overall revenue for the company. The company sells in the same manor as the above segment and has recently began to push into Russia as well. This is a promising segment as it is much less promotional than North America, therefor margins should be better.

Asia – Pacific: This is the segment that management is most excited about due to the success of Stephen Curry in the Asian markets. This market currently makes up under 9%, which has grown from 5.6% in 2016. This is the highest growth opportunity for the company, however Nike and Adidas have saturated this market and breaking in will be much more difficult than management has guided.





Latin America: The Latin America segment contains Mexico, South America, Hong Kong, and Jordan. This segment has grown from 2.9 percent of revenue to 3.6 percent in 2017. This segment is another segment with less promotional activity than North America and therefore an opportunity for growth.

Connected Fitness: The connected fitness segment is the segment that management is most excited about but most blind about as well. Management is very excited about their HOVR technology, which tracks a few statistics while running. However, there is no marked improvement over Nike's Nike+technology that failed a few years ago. This is one of the major issues with Under Armour's upper management in general, they refuse to look at their competitors and learn the lessons that they need too.

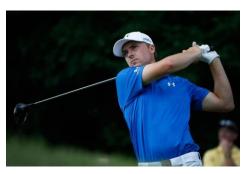


### **Growth Drivers:**

There are a few drivers of growth as long as management stays on track for Under Armour in the upcoming year. The first of those is expansion into foreign markets. If the company is able to diversify its revenue stream there will be both increased growth and margin improvement. Currently, Under Armour has zero operating margin therefore, this improvement is crucial. The company has historically carried right around a 12% margin and this is a target they must get back to in



order to return to profitability. The next driver of growth is Under Armour's HOVR technology. This can be a driver of growth as long as UA has learned from the competitors mistakes. The technology segment will be high margin and the inclusion of said technology will allow UA to increase prices and grow margin. However,



if this is improperly implemented the company will suffer large losses in time and invested capital. The last driver is continued improvement within the signature athlete lines. Especially in the golf industry where Jordan Speith is one of the most prominent competitors and Stephen Curry who is a reigning NBA champion. Curry's shoes are a leading indicator of how UA behaves, the first Curry was a very good shoe and UA's stock price 'soared. However, in recent years, the Curry signature line has faltered and following this, so has Under Armour.

## Debt:

Under Armour has a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.37, which is right around the industry median when compared with Nike and Adidas. However, those companies are much more established and have a better credit rating than Under Armour's BBB- (junk status). Under Armour has over 1.4B in debt coming due in the next year, which could cause issues within the company. This problem can be dealt with through prudent management however, through the last two years this has been an issue for the company.





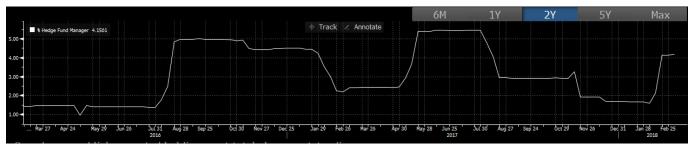
Payments Due by Period									
Less Than Total 1 Year		1 to 3 Years 3 to		3 to 5 Years	More Than Years 5 Years				
\$ 980,585	\$	51,925	\$	134,932	\$	125,478	\$	668,250	
1,489,469		140,257		297,759		279,406		772,047	
1,093,665		1,093,665		_		_		_	
1,170,848		150,428		261,191		241,493		517,736	
\$ 4,734,567	\$	1,436,275	\$	693,882	\$	646,377	\$	1,958,033	
\$	\$ 980,585 1,489,469 1,093,665 1,170,848	\$ 980,585 \$ 1,489,469 1,093,665 1,170,848	\$ 980,585 \$ 51,925 1,489,469 140,257 1,093,665 1,093,665 1,170,848 150,428	\$ 980,585 \$ 51,925 \$ 1,489,469 140,257 1,093,665 1,170,848 150,428	Total     Less Than 1 Year     1 to 3 Years       \$ 980,585     \$ 51,925     \$ 134,932       1,489,469     140,257     297,759       1,093,665     1,093,665     —       1,170,848     150,428     261,191	Less Than 1 Year     1 to 3 Years       \$ 980,585     \$ 51,925     \$ 134,932     \$ 1,489,469     140,257     297,759       1,093,665     1,093,665     —       1,170,848     150,428     261,191	Total         Less Than 1 Year         1 to 3 Years         3 to 5 Years           \$ 980,585         \$ 51,925         \$ 134,932         \$ 125,478           1,489,469         140,257         297,759         279,406           1,093,665         1,093,665         —         —           1,170,848         150,428         261,191         241,493	Total         Less Than 1 Year         1 to 3 Years         3 to 5 Years           \$ 980,585         \$ 51,925         \$ 134,932         \$ 125,478         \$ 1,489,469         140,257         297,759         279,406           1,093,665         1,093,665         —         —         —           1,170,848         150,428         261,191         241,493	

## Ownership:

Over 90% of UAA is owned by institutional investors and hedge funds alona. As evident in the chart below hedgefund interest has fluctuated agressively in the last two years. This has been accompanied by an almost identical fluctuation in short interest over that time. This means that most likely, hedge funds are in UAA as a short position. However, this is not always true as certain

01/29/17	Curr	Change
84.03	86.49	+2.46 🗠
4.24	4.16	-0.08 🗠
3.91	3.19	-0.72 🗠
1.37	2.38	+1.01 🗠
1.27	1.07	-0.20 🗠
2.54	0.88	-1.66 🗠
1.00	0.85	-0.15 🗠
0.60	0.62	+0.02 ≝
0.83	0.14	-0.69 🗠
	84.03 4.24 3.91 1.37 1.27 2.54 1.00 0.60	84.03 86.49 4.24 4.16 3.91 3.19 1.37 2.38 1.27 1.07 2.54 0.88 1.00 0.85 0.60 0.62

hedgefunds have been holding UAA for the longterm. This discrepency boils down to whether or not each individual believes that UA has turned a corner in its business life.



#### 2018 Outlook:

2018 will be a make or break year for Under Armour and Kevin Plank. Either the initiatives and restructuring that was set up in2017 works or it doesn't. The company needs to prove that it can compete with the Goliaths of the industry in Nike and Adidas. There are certainly opportunities out there for the company to take advantage of domestically and abroad. If the HOVR technology is proven to be a transcendent technology then Under Armour will take off an soar to a price of \$20+ a share. However, the much more likely scenario is that UA returns to historical margins of around 9% and grows at a much more modest 10 or 11 percent growth per year. This will lead to a one-year price target of \$17.64 for a return of around 10%. However, if these initiatives do not pan out UA could see continued losses and a price of around \$13 a share once again for a resulting loss of 18.75%. Due to the increased risk and modest returns, I am recommending a hold on UAA.





