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**MARIA SAPORTA**

## Columbus exec's Americas fund leads rankings

**S**urprise: The country's top-ranked global mutual fund is based in Columbus.

Diaz-Verson Americas Equity Fund finished No. 1 among global funds in rankings by The Wall Street Journal (12-month return as of Sept. 22) and USA Today (third-quarter return).

"When you look at the list of top performers, the other funds are based in New York and Los Angeles," said **Salvador Diaz-Verson**, the investment manager and adviser to the fund.



**Salvador Diaz-Verson** heads the \$7 million fund.

Diaz-Verson said he was "really excited" about the rankings, adding it's fund performance, not size, that counts.

The fund, which invests in enterprises in North

South and Central America, has \$7 million in assets.

The secret to the fund's success, as Diaz-Verson sees it, is that it did not pull out of Mexico during its political turmoil. Now Diaz-Verson is looking for a strong fourth quarter in North America.

"Latin America did very well," he said. "We think Mexico and the United States will make new highs in the fourth quarter. But we think that the new market for 1995 is Argentina. Their economy has been growing at about 6 percent with almost no signs of inflation."

A native of Cuba, Diaz-Verson has been in Columbus since 1974. He is a former executive with AFLAC, where he handled the insurance company's investments.