

10-23-2017

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Recommended Citation

Weinstein, Mark D., "Cedarville Student Is 3-Time National Yo-Yo Champion" (2017). *News Releases*. 556.
http://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases/556

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2017

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Cedarville Student Is 3-Time National Yo-Yo Champion

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – As a yo-yo aficionado, Cedarville University student Philip White most likely knows that his favorite hobby is often a metaphor for an up-and-down, unpredictable pattern of life. But White's champion status in the sport has become as predictable as the sun rising each day. He earned first place for the third year in a row at the 2017 U.S. National Yo-Yo Contest October 6-8 in Chico, California.

From 2015-17, White won the championship in the offstring division, a style of yo-yoing where the toy is not attached to a string. The national contest, run by the National Yo-Yo League and sponsored in part by Duncan Toys, has five divisions based on different styles.

His behind-the-back and around-the-leg moves, rapid-fire style and 20-foot-high tosses and catches capture "oohs" and "ahhs" from fans.

"This year was the 25th anniversary of the National Yo-Yo Contest, so this win is especially meaningful to me," said White, a sophomore computer science major from Schenectady, New York. There was no cash award for his big win, just the satisfaction of achieving a lofty goal in a hobby he loves.

White and his older brother Gordon began yo-yoing when they were kids. "My parents gave my brother and me some classic Duncan yo-yos that came with trick CDs," he said. "Gordon and I learned all those, and then my younger brother, Stuart, found some more tricks on YouTube." Once he mastered some of those, he was hooked and began to create new yo-yo tricks and combinations.

White said he practices about an hour a day and sometimes uses the Cedarville University racquetball courts, which are more conducive to tricks where the offstring yo-yo flies high in the air. "I work as hard as I can to grow this talent that God has given me," he said. "God gives us everything for a purpose. I'm not exactly sure how he wants to use this, although I'm looking at possible overseas missions opportunities."

Till then, White will continue honing his skill. And, next year, he will have a fellow yo-yo devotee on the Cedarville campus, brother Stuart. "Stuart competes, too, and has won state competitions," White said.

White plans to enter the 2018 National Yo-Yo Contest and 2019 World Yo-Yo Contest in Cleveland, Ohio.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,963 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.