

Chess grandmaster to test MU players

Simultaneous match a 'chance of lifetime'

By Richard O. Jones
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People don't normally enter a game or contest to get their clocks cleaned, but the Miami University Chess Club is offering local players a chance to take on one of America's best players.

Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov will visit the campus March 28 and will play a 25-board simultaneous chess match against club members and other local players.

"This is the chance of a lifetime for chess players," said Clyde Brown, faculty adviser. "It is like playing golf with Tiger Woods, tennis with Martina Hingis, basketball with Wally Szczerbiak, or hockey with Wayne Gretzky."

Kaidanov was born in Russia in 1959. He immigrated to the United States in 1991 after earning the coveted title of "grandmaster" in 1988.

"For the last decade, Gregory has been ranked in the top three American players and in the top 40 or 50 worldwide," according to club president Michael Gribov.

In a simultaneous chess match, a very skilled chess player takes on multiple opponents. The grandmaster, in this case, will rotate very quickly among the 25 opponents, make a move, and continue to the next board. Club players must move within 10 seconds of the grandmaster's arrival at their board, according to match rules.

Some of the boards are reserved for club members, but others will be allocated to students, faculty and community members.

"We're trying to get a range of players and will probably put them in categories,



Submitted photo

Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov, shown above, will visit the Miami campus March 28 and will play a 25-board simultaneous chess match against Miami University Chess Club members and other local players.

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Michael Gribov

President, Miami University Chess Club

then draw names out of a hat," Brown said.

The deadline to apply to play is March 15. To get your name on the list of candi-

dates, call Clyde Brown at 529-2014.

Kaidanov also will give a public presentation on Russian and American chess while on campus. His visit is sponsored by Miami University's Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies and the Miami University Chess Club and is part of a university-wide "Imagining Russia Festival."

The simultaneous chess match will start at 6 p.m. in Room 12 of Harrison Hall. The informal talk "Russian Chess: Past, Present and Future" is 2 p.m. in the Bystrom Room in the Shriver Center.

Both events are free and open to the public.