

# Chess Grandmaster to compete at MU

By Chris Gray

The Miami Student

In the world of chess, competing against Gregory Kaidanov is like going one-on-one with Michael Jordan.

Miami University students will have that opportunity today as Grandmaster Kaidanov, ranked No. 1 by the U.S. Chess Federation, will compete with students and other area residents in a chess simul at 6 p.m. in Multipurpose Room B in the Shriver Center.

According to chess club faculty adviser Clyde Brown, the simul will be set up with Kaidanov's competitors in a ring, chessboard to chessboard.

Kaidanov will pass around the room, and each player will have 10 seconds to make a move when Kaidanov is in front of him.

Kaidanov will then have 10 seconds to move a piece of his own before moving on to the next player. This will continue for about two hours, until all matches are completed.

After the simul, two contestants will be chosen at random to challenge the Grandmaster to a five-minute "blindfold blitz," in which Kaidanov will be unable to see his adversary's pieces.

Everyone is welcome to step up to the challenge, from the most novice patzer to the seasoned veteran, and boards will

be provided if contestants do not have their own.

"Anyone can come up off the street and take part," said Miami University Chess Club President Justin Fenn. "If you're a relative beginner or intermediate player, Mr. Kaidanov will be able to tell after 10 to 12 moves what skill level you are, and play accordingly. While tremendously talented, he's not going to go for the kill."

Kaidanov last came to Miami for a simul in 2001, drawing a crowd of 200 spectators.

"I've never had such a crowd. I feel like I'm back in Russia," said Kaidanov after the event.

He gladly agreed to return to Miami for another simul.

In addition to the main event today, Kaidanov will present a lecture on St. Petersburg's chess legacy at King Library in association with the Havighurst Center at 2 p.m.

Kaidanov will also meet with students at Stewart Elementary at noon, where he will give tips to fourth- and fifth-graders before competing against the 20 students in the school's chess club.

"I'm hoping that Mr. Kaidanov will fuel the kids' interest in the game and give them someone to look up to," Miami sophomore Greg Gliner said.

Gliner helped set up the Stewart chess club, and teaches the elementary students about the game twice a month.