US Chess nominates JJ Lang to be the 2023 Chess Journalist of the Year.

After writing excellent reports on the National Open (September 2022) and the 2022 National Invitationals (November 2022) for Chess Life, as well as leading our online coverage of the 2022 U.S. Open, JJ Lang was hired in late October 2022 to serve as our Digital Assistant. Immediately JJ threw himself into the role, churning out article after article for *Chess Life Online*. From tournament reports to instructive pieces to the ever-popular "Wednesday Workouts," JJ consistently produced thoughtful, timely articles and analysis, helping to fulfill the US Chess mission to empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess.

Here is a representative sample of his work for Chess Life Online.

https://new.uschess.org/news/youth-steals-show-tata-steel-india

https://new.uschess.org/news/last-second-substitute-wins-most-prestigious-online-event-year

https://new.uschess.org/news/2022-world-team-championship-united-states-exits-group-stages

https://new.uschess.org/news/15-teachable-moments-pro-chess-league

https://new.uschess.org/news/norm-hunter-dozen-norms-two-months

One of the highlights of JJ's tenure with US Chess is the growth of the weekly "Wednesday Workout" series. As if selecting and annotating the positions weren't enough, he also creates a downloadable pdf worksheet for solvers, one that is free for all — members and non-members alike — to use to home their skills. To see these Workouts, visit:

https://new.uschess.org/category/workout

JJ's work on these Workouts helped him tackle one of the most interesting projects for the US Chess Communications team in recent years — our coverage of the 2023 World Chess Championship. After contracting a diverse team of annotators, JJ wrote round-by-round accounts of the match between Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtchi. He edited analysis by the likes of Abrahamyan, Liang, Moradiabadi, Yoo, and Yu. He then led our team efforts in creating daily, downloadable pdf bulletins for each and every round, complete with analysis, photos, and commentary — the day after the games were played. Again, these were free for anyone in the world to use and enjoy.

https://new.uschess.org/2023-FIDE-World-Championship

Outside of his US Chess duties, JJ has shown a different side of himself and his personality with his personal podcast, jointly hosted with Julia Rios.

"ChessFeels: A Chess and Psychology Podcast" is honest, biting, and hilarious. There's a lot of talk of improvement, but in contrast to most of the #chessimprovers material out there, JJ and Julia bring clinical insights to the table, along with deep introspection and no small amount of profanity. It is consistently excellent, and my only regret about bringing JJ Lang onto the US Chess team is that his work ethic for us has sapped his ability to continue to record new episodes with Julia.

Learn more about the podcast at:

https://chessfeels.transistor.fm/

In summary: it seems almost a shame to nominate JJ for this award now, because he'll be winning it for years to come. But no one — and I mean *no one* — has done more to tell the tale of American chess over these past twelve months than has JJ Lang. He has brought new voices into the discussion, new eyeballs to our social media feeds, and new ideas to our team. He will be an eminently deserving winner.