

US Chess nominates JJ Lang to be the 2024 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. In the past year, JJ has also added a “Tactics Tuesday” series, focused on recent events as in the “Wednesday Workouts” series but also to enhance the *Chess Life Kids* Openings Project with model games and thematic tactics aimed at a scholastic audience. Through these features and a focus on highlighting diverse voices in chess, JJ’s work helps 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.

[Memorial Day Weekend Wrap-Up | US Chess.org](#)

[Game Highlights From XXXIII Pan-American Youth Chess Festival | US Chess.org](#)

[Comebacks Come Up Short for Yip, Niemann at World Junior Championships | US Chess.org](#)

[Tata Steel 2024: Wei Yi Wins Four-Way Playoff | US Chess.org](#)

[IM Jason Wang Wins 2024 National High School Championship | US Chess.org](#)

["Prehistoric" Shankland Ties for First at Sharjah Masters | US Chess.org](#)

One of the highlights of JJ’s tenure with US Chess is the growth of the [weekly “Wednesday Workout”](#) series and introduction of the [new “Tactics Tuesday”](#) 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 hone their skills.

In addition to taking on these weekly features and being the primary newswriter and game annotator for next-day coverage of events throughout the chess world, JJ has also continued to take lead on organizing, editing, and laying out ambitious projects such as our coverage for the [2023 FIDE Women’s World Chess Championship](#). JJ wrote round-by-round recaps of the match between GMs Ju Wenjun and Lei Tingjie while commissioning and editing annotations from a number of the country’s top female players. He then led our team efforts in creating daily, downloadable bulletins for all twelve rounds, uploaded the day after each game was completed. Again, these were available for free to anyone in the world.

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: 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.