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# American Idol -- Top 9 Results: Bye Megan Joy



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Here's the link to my original coverage of Tuesday's performance show.

Now the results are in: the bottom three were Alison Iraheta and Anoop Desai and Megan Joy. The bottom two were Megan and Anoop (as I predicted) and Megan is going home. For the first time, the judges' Save ability was treated appropriately. Simon made clear before she sang that they wouldn't save her and that Megan's

performance was her swan song. It made that last moment actually nice rather than a farce. I'd predicted Anoop would go first but it was only a matter of time before they both left.

The night began with Paula seemingly in a nightgown and Adam back to his normal spiky hair. (Good call.) Ryan asked Simon to pick the bottom three and he echoed my choices: Megan, Anoop and Matt. Then they did a group "performance" of the Journey classic "Don't Stop Believin," a great tune given new life when it was featured in the finale of *The Sopranos*. For some godawful reason, the group has been forced to lip sync these group performances. The lowlight was surely seeing Scott MacIntyre belt out his line nowhere near the microphone. The Up With People performances were always ungainly, awful things but they did serve one purpose: giving contestants a chance to cut one another and shine if only for a few bars. Either stop the lip syncing or stop the group performance. It's a truly dreadful farce. Yes, I suppose learning to lip sync is a skill every pop artist must master, but not this early in the game. Please.

Hearing the contestants imitate each other was excruciating on many levels. Then the contestants were put into three groups: Megan and Matt and Kris were in one group. Adam and Lil Rounds and Allison Iraheta were in another group. Scott and Danny and Anoop were in the third group. If one of the groups was the bottom three, I was going with the first one (though the third was enticing too). If it was one person from each group, I picked Megan and Anoop again with Lil as the third choice. Wrong again, of course.

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Then David Cook performed nicely and was given a platinum award for his debut album. Since last year not even 20 albums went platinum, this is definitely an accomplishment. Platinum is the new triple platinum.

Then they announced the bottom three. Matt was convinced it was he, but Megan got the nod and literally flapped her arms and cawed as she walked over to the loser's circle. Hilarious. I like her more and more as a personality each week. My friend Aaron was right in pegging her as a goofball from the get-go. Then Allison got the tap and she too flapped her arms and cawed as she went over to join Megan, saying, "Hey familiar chair!". Obviously, Megan is infectious. Anoop joined them and when they sat Allison back down Megan said, "Don't forget to caw."

Lady GaGa performed next and talk about showmanship: a see-through piano and she sang lines I never expected to hear on *Idol*: "When it's love, if it's not rough, it isn't fun!" Dang!

Ryan made clear that Megan and Anoop were the two lowest vote-getters (out of 36 million votes), something that isn't always clarified every week. Anoop looked very defensive and unhappy but Megan was the odd one out, immediately saying she didn't care, meaning probably that it's ok and she had a great journey. Simon jumped on that to say that if she didn't care, they didn't either and they wouldn't be using their Save and this would be her swan song.

In fact, that was a blessing since we knew the judges wouldn't save her or Anoop from elimination. That let her sing a goodbye rather than be humiliated while the judges half listened and half talked. Either have both in the bottom two sing before announcing the one facing elimination or have the judges make their determination beforehand like they did tonight. Pretending that one performance (of a song or arrangement the judges usually dissed the night before) really matters is a farce. They really need to fix the Save and Simon showed them how.

Watching Megan Joy cry and look at peace was rather sweet. I'll miss her goofiness a lot more than I'll miss Anoop or Scott or Matt. And yes, those guys are all on notice, along with Lil. I expect the final four to be Danny and Adam and Kris and Allison at the moment. What do you think? Who are your picks for the final four?

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Allison's amazing--I'm shocked she's been in the bottom three twice now. Even though she hasn't picked very appealing songs (Papa Was a Rolling Stone? Yuck), she's performed everything well and moreover, she knows her style, stays in it, and her style is relevant. As compared to Scott, who knows his style, stays in it, and isn't relevant, no matter how obviously sweet and well-meaning the man. Ability is one thing, and good taste is another. Scott does not demonstrate good taste in music and belonged in the bottom three with Anoop and Megan, who rightly deserved to go.

Neither does Lil Rounds show good taste in music, or good enough anyways, I sadly add. As someone else noted a terrific talent with an effortless voice, but she's failed to define herself as an artist.

I love what Kris has been doing, he's a joy to watch and so unpretentious (has a boyish sexy appeal like a young Paul McCartney) you could almost underestimate him, especially with a showboat like Adam Lambert around. I thought at the first that this whole thing would come down to Adam, Danny and Lil with my jury out on which of the latter two would be in the final, but I'm beginning to believe the final two will and should be Adam and Kris.

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Scott should have gone before her, but her song choices are uniformly awful; it's her own fault, really.

Next to go SHOULD be Scott, then Anoop, then Lil.

The Top 5 really are terrific in their own right. Matt should go, then Allison; the Top 3, in a perfect world, would be Danny, Chris and Adam -- in that order. I know Danny has that sentimental, X-tian fan base (not to mention a bizarre resemblance to Robert Downey, Jr -- though no personality resemblance whatsofrigginnever) and is banking on it to the hilt, but he doesn't deserve to be Top 2; Chris does. And everyone knows Adam Lambert is a born star, ringer or no.

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I liked Megan - but she did choose some bad songs.

PLEASE let Alison stay in the competition! She's just a confused young 'un with a HUGE amount of talent and a lot of spunk! Every teen is going to have identity issues, if they don't want anyone with such issues, why do they allow such young people into the comp?

I don't understand why Simon is so down on her every week - he never has anything nice to say to her - how can he not be impressed by her?! Having said that, her outfit was a bit crazy...but then again, there's nothing wrong with eccentricity!

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See, I actually liked Megan. I thought she was extremely marketable, funny, witty, a very nice voice. What people see in the Danny guy is beyond. I just don't believe he's very good. My picks are Lil, who definitely has to start stepping up her game here. I mean, I agree with what the judges said a while back. She, technically speaking, should be dominating this years competition. She has an absolutely amazing voice. Effortless.

The only others I like are Allison, Adam, and Chris.

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That Megan is a strange bird. Glad to see her go!

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