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**Michael Giltz**

Freelance writer and raconteur  
Posted: March 24, 2010 10:47 PM

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# Idol Season 9: Top 11 -- Non-Shocker: Paige Goes Home

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*American Idol* said goodbye to Paige Miles and finalized the Top 10. That's the group that goes on tour and from which most every single successful *Idol* alum has sprung. (Has anyone been in the Top 12 or 24 and made waves that didn't make it to the Top 10?) So going on tour is:

- Crystal Bowersox
- Aaron Kelly
- Casey James

- Siobhan Magnus
- Michael Lynche
- Lee Dewyze
- Didi Benami
- Tim Urban
- Katie Stevens
- Andrew Garcia

And no, that order is not random. That's roughly how I think they'll stack up in the weeks to come, with Crystal and Aaron in the finale.

The show began with a shocker: at 8:02 I thought I spotted someone in the audience so excited about *Idol* that she didn't realize her nose was bleeding. Turns out friends of Siobhan had dressed up as zombies.

The *Idol* kids sang another horrific lip-sync singalong, this time to the awesome pop classic "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" by Wham. (My favorite version of that tune came in Central Park of New York City. I was walking through it on a summer's day with my father and brother when a homeless man appeared, clutching a boombox to his ear, even though I don't believe it was turned on. He started bopping up and down and suddenly squealed out, "Wake me UP before you go go!" over and over as he walked through

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BECK IN TROUBLE?

the grass. Only in New York, as Cindy Adams would say.)

But why are they still doing lip-synchs? And why do the worst singers always tend to be the best lip-synchers? There's a lesson in there somewhere. Lee Dewyze looked miserable the entire night. He looked miserable during the sing-along, during the chat with Ryan, during the elimination round and at the finale.

And Ryan touched on a nerve by showing footage of Michael Lynche walking out of his apartment with his son. Ryan described him as "babysitting." Uh, you don't "babysit" your own son. Just one more example of society's deep prejudice against men as parents.

Anyway, that was followed by a notably awkward elimination. Ryan stood up Lee and Casey on one side and Paige and Tim on the other. Paige was finally told she was in the bottom three. But as Tim started to sit down he was anti-climatically told that he was in the bottom three as well. But Ryan forgot to tell Lee and Casey they were safe so they stood there awkwardly even as the show cut to a break.

Miley Cyrus performed her dramatic ballad "When I Look At You" after Ryan informed us that next week's genre was r&b/soul and the mentor would be Usher. Miley off-handedly said the audience had given Miley the first standing ovation in her life. Ryan found that hard to believe, as did I, but she seemed pretty sincere.

Andrew Garcia and Katie Stevens faced off, with Andrew (barely) safe and Katie in the bottom three. Katie was immediately made safe. Then Joe Jonas and Demi Lovato (*Camp Rock!*) sang a weak inspirational tune called "Make A Wave." Still, the show has definitely been booking very young-leaning guests and mentors this season. Finally, to no one's surprise, Paige went home, with the judges politely telling her even before she sang that they wouldn't use their save.

So what soul numbers would you suggest for your favorite *Idol* next week?

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**CaseyLogan** 09:05 PM on 3/28/2010

0 Fans

There's already only 11 contestants left on American Idol and since it's pretty obvious who is going to win, (Crystal Bowersox), I want to know when Season 10 is going to start. There's been alot of gossip about season 10 being the last year of idol. So if this is true I strongly believe they should allow 15 year olds audition for idol! Because the simple fact is there should be no age limit on talent! I understand not letting a 12 or 13 year old not audition because they might have not hit puberty yet! So their voice could change drastically very quickly. They might be a great singer one day but then they hit puberty and they could suck! There is noo diffrence between a 15 year old and a 16 year old!! This could be their only chance to make their dreams come true so let them audition!! Thank you!

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**CAMBEL** 05:11 PM on 3/30/2010

332 Fans



My only problem with that is that I'm looking at some of the 16 year olds and thinking "Wow, they will be great when they are 25!" But they auditioned so young and I really think some of them need some more time.

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**HUFFPOST BLOGGER**

**Michael Giltz** 12:28 PM on 3/31/2010  
59 Fans



Next season will not be the last for Idol. It will debut in January of 2011 without Simon. In the fall of 2011, his very similar UK show The X Factor will launch an American edition. That finale comes in December right before Christmas. And then the NEXT edition of Idol will debut a few weeks later in January of 2012. That will be the first test of how it does with X factor having just finished. But for now it's the #1 show in the country. On momentum alone, it will last another three or four years, even if X factor kills it. Plus, with Simon gone, the costs will fall significantly.

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**capkronos** 10:32 PM on 3/26/2010

17 Fans

I usually watch this show every season but I threw in the towel after Lilly and Alex got kicked off. Yeah America, let's boot out the two most unique voices in the competition during the third week, shall we? Siobhan and Crystal are decent enough, but the rest of these people are a waste of time.

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**HUFFPOST SUPER USER**

**porsche996** 08:28 PM on 3/26/2010  
376 Fans



They should check out the Chris Mann arrangement for Kanye's "Heartless".

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyoYjXz9ZTc>

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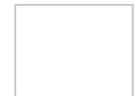
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**seereene1** 12:24 PM on 3/26/2010

83 Fans

I stopped watching Idol 4-5 years ago when it became clear this was a teen popularity contest and had little to do with actual singing ability and talent. I started watching only to find out what EllenD would bring to the show. Unfortunately not enough to compensate for the judges poor choices of who gets into the top 24 - the absolutely awful song selection. I'm over 50 and it's painful to watch these young people singing dusty moldy oldies from washed up pop and rock stars who haven't had a hit in 25 years. The Rolling stones debacle show did it for me. Poor Paige - who I actually think is a great singer as displayed by her farewell song - was laid low by a combination of laryngitis and poor song choice.

The only contestant that is mildly interesting to me is Siobhan Magnus. As far as the vocals of Michael Lynche that everyone goes on about - I think again people are voting for personality. I've heard a lot better in any gospel choir in the country. For me...the show isn't even worth DVRing anymore. Bye again Idol.

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**Bloodwart** 10:40 PM on 3/25/2010

3 Fans

Timjaya will be around as long as those young twits keep twitting.

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**LCDTV** 08:50 PM on 3/25/2010

30 Fans

you are right ken, this seasons contestants are not very good. i never heard so many bad vocals and poor songs choices. Siobhan is by far the most interesting. she is the only one that is really pushing herself to grow musically by doing more difficult songs. lynche and crystal are good, but they are not really growing musically. tim, lee, casey and katie are decent but they need good mentoring to bust out of their shells and do something exciting.

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**Spectrums** 08:13 PM on 3/25/2010

9 Fans

Interesting order you pick there. My take is:

Didi has a limited range and almost seems to be straining at times.

Lee has some pitch problems now and then and just looks so stressed all the time--hard to watch.

Arron is a sweet singer but not powerful enough

Top 4:

Crystal  
Siobhan  
Michael  
Casey

and not necessarily in that order. Just IMO. But what do I know? I don't even bother to vote!

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**Spectrums** 08:04 PM on 3/25/2010

9 Fans

After those performances, I'd say that Tim and Andrew should be next to go unless they can pull out a perfect, killer performance. But don't go to sleep on Michale Lynche. This guy has one of the best voices in the group. If he can get some coaching on his stage presence and choreography, he can be a star something along the lines of a Luther Vandross. (Of course, there is and always will be only one LVD!)

Mike will have a recording career--win or lose Al.

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**lesterbud** 11:09 AM on 3/26/2010



366 Fans

I like Michael a lot and have been using the LVD comparison since his audition. He will lose, eventually, to Chrystal, who is the only spectacular talent this season - she could win any of the previous seasons with the possible exception of David/David season.

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**Bloviator88** 05:09 PM on 3/25/2010

26 Fans

Same songs, same comments, same contestants. No thanks, Fox. I'll watch Rachel and Keith.

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**HUFFPOST SUPER USER**

**msoverall** 03:10 PM on 3/25/2010



76 Fans

Poor Andrew, he's been off the rails since Hollywood week. Paige was the right one to get the boot last night, I don't know what happened to her but she was DREADFUL, poor Phil Collins must have been screaming in anguish as she croaked her way through his song and why did she attribute the song to Mariah Carey???!?

Unfortunately, I think the majority of the group stinks. They have no idea how to pick a song ( who keeps co-signing Andrews choice of tuneless, repetitive ditties), virtually no stage presence or they sound like live-stock being led to slaughter. UGH!! Siohghan, dear, please don't add a mindless shriek to the end of every song, it was great once, now it's tiresome. Crystal, put down guitar and put a little life into your performances, you have a great voice, but you always look like you're about to be excuted. Micheal, less lounge lizzard, better song choices. Casey, your cute, lucky you. The rest of them just stink, really, really stink.

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**Adam Gangelhoff** 02:57 PM on 3/25/2010

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Paige gave the two worst performances I have ever seen in the history of American Idol. I'm glad she's finally gone. This is the most awkward season, the judges just seem so worthless. I love Didi and her unique sound (plus she is beautiful) and Kara keeps trying to tell her who she thinks she is. I think Didi knows better than Kara does who she is! I can't wait to see Crystal do an R&B song. That should be interesting. I hope they quit doing songs from the 70's and do something recent. Andrew has a chance to pull out of his funk here. I think he should do 'Caught Up' by Usher or would love to hear him or Big Mike sing 'Down' by Jay Sean. Simon keeps telling everyone to make themselves relevant, hopefully they listen and pick some modern songs.

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**Michelissima** 08:48 PM on 3/26/2010

1 Fans

You have a short memory. MOST of the contestants on season 1 couldn't hold a candle to the worst singers in this latest group.

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**kirtlandpat** 02:53 PM on 3/25/2010



168 Fans

I think Andrew should just sing "Straight Up" every show from here on out, because no matter what he does, the judges bring it up and throw it in his face.

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**HUFFPOST SUPER USER**

**goodgravy** 01:53 PM on 3/25/2010



i have been watching idol since '03. this year is awful on so many levels that watching it has turned into a waste of time for me. i sadly took it off the DVR after tuesday's show. goodbye idol. we've had a lot of fun together. i wish you the best.

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**CAMBEL** 01:21 PM on 3/25/2010



332 Fans

Did Miley Cyrus help Paige go home by telling her to sing softly? Or was Paige singling softly and Miley was diplomatically complimenting her? Either way Paige's performance was horrible. And as for mentoring, Miley came off as "Nice" but a lot of her advice was about engaging a concert audience, not about sounding good and engaging the Cameras. They need mentors with better experience who are not afraid to offer concrete suggestions. Shockingly enough one of the better mentors I've seen was "Lulu"

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**Spectrums** 07:57 PM on 3/25/2010

9 Fans

Well, relying on the musical advice of a 17 year old might not necessarily be such a good idea. Miley is definitely very talented and knows what works for her. She is a huge success, to her credit and Disney's but does she have the range and depth of experience yet to be in the position to technically advise other singers? Not so sure.

But, having said that, Paige just has a perpetual pitch problem and no matter how much talent and potential a person may have, if you can't sing with perfect pitch in a performance, you will not get very far. There are just too many good singers out there who can and they are competing to make it, too.

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**DCDan** 01:13 PM on 3/25/2010

2 Fans

Re Lee Dewyze's cover of "The Letter": Tip of hat to The Box Tops was nice, especially the Alex Chilton reference. However, Lee was clearly, one hundred percent, doing Joe Cocker's version of the song; a complete reworking of the tune as arranged by Leon Russell for the Mad Dogs & Englishmen tour (went Top 10 on Billboard, but not to No.1). Also, if we're bringing up Alex Chilton might be worthwhile to mention that he died just last week at age 59. Big Star is essential listening for all "power-pop" music fans.

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**HUFFPOST BLOGGER**

**Michael Giltz** 12:32 PM on 3/31/2010

59 Fans



You're right of course about that being the Joe Cocker arrangement and the sad news about Chilton. Happily Big Star's music will love forever.

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