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Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur
Posted: May 12, 2010 10:18 PM

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Idol Season 9: Top 4 -- Big Goodbye for Big Mike

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Well, it was probably a close call, but Michael Lynche is headed home from *American Idol* while Casey James makes it into the top 3 alongside Lee Dewyze and front-runner Crystal Bowersox (who hasn't won a thing yet, so you've got to keep voting).

In an oddly structured evening in which three big acts came out and did solid performances of so-so songs, we found out first that Casey James was safe. Naturally, that meant the only suspense would be if Lee was going home but then he was announced as safe too. That left Michael and Crystal, though Ryan Seacrest had been careful at the top of the show to

announce the results were presented in "no particular order." So why group Michael and Crystal as the faux "bottom two?" It just meant everyone knew that Michael was going home after the first 10 minutes of the show but wouldn't know for certain until the end. He then reprised "Will You Be There" and if Michael had been that forceful and focused on performance night, he'd probably still be in it. Of all the contestants who got to sing in defiance of going home, Michael can take comfort in delivering the most.

So is it clear cut that Crystal and Lee will be the finalists or can Casey sneak in there? And is it foolish to think Crystal is a lock when last season most people thought Adam Lambert was a lock over Kris Allen?

Thanks for reading. Visit Michael Giltz at his website and his daily blog. Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his weekly music radio show at Popsurfing and enjoy the weekly pop culture podcast he co-hosts at Showbiz Sandbox. Both available for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

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CaliforniaMark 11:53 PM on 5/13/2010

26 Fans

This season of American Idol is a joke. I am offically beating that Lee will take the Crown this year, Why? Because just like Taylor Hicks they are grooming him to win. If anyone STILL thinks that American Idol is not staged then they must be young enough to have Justin Bieber posters over their beds.

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Don Parker 11:24 PM on 5/13/2010

52 Fans



Yes, it has been a weak season for Idol.....

But thank heavens, our long national nightmare is over FINALLY:

"Taylor Swift Getting Honored By Songwriters' Hall Of Fame"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/05/11/taylor-swift-getting-into_n_571804.html

And what were they thinking to take this long? She had to put out a second album before they came to their senses and decided her long career and lifetime achievement made her Hall of Fame material.

"Phil Collins and music producer Phil Ramone also will receive special awards at the event. Other inductees include Leonard Cohen...."

Come on, what have Phil Collins, Phil Ramone, and Leonard Cohen ever done to be worthy of being honored alongside Ms. Swift???????

By the way, I hope they don't tell Kanye where the ceremonies will be staged.

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magnoliabird 04:26 PM on 5/13/2010

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Jane Krakowski Reveals

I think I am done with Idol. Casey over Big Mike. This season was painful and I think Idol has worn out its welcome. Don't think I will be going forward into the next season. Rather tired of the same ol thing.

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ElitistWhitePerson 01:18 PM on 5/13/2010

13 Fans

I think the fact that this is our top three speaks greatly to the level of talent this year. With the exception of Crystal. As far as Lee goes, I hope he can write songs. He looks and sounds sort of like Bob Dylan, has Dylan's stage mannerisms, so if he can write like Dylan, he could have the most prolific career ever. As for Casey, if I had a pool in my back yard, he would be my pool boy. Oh hell yes! Maybe he can write songs too.

Bottom line, Crystal should win. But she is an un-wed mother, so the God Squad could come after her also!

Overall, a disappointing season...

Seacrest Out! Please!

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Michael Giltz 07:21 PM on 5/13/2010

59 Fans



All Lee has to do is write like Dylan? :) True. Too bad no one's been able to do it as well in 50 years. Since Fantasia won, I'm hoping people won't diss Crystal for her personal life.

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julbar 07:35 PM on 5/13/2010

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Excellent point about Fantasia who now looks whole and happy btw-hope she truly is.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER

keene 11:51 AM on 5/14/2010

38 Fans



I have dissed Lee all season. And then I heard samples from his album Slumberland. The album's really good. he doesn't invoke Dylan, but he's good in his own right.

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Scottcluthe 12:42 PM on 5/13/2010

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As previously stated, only thing I care about is when she breaks out the Bonnie Raitt! lol. I signed up for the trip so I'll ride it through to the end.

Maybe they can just film Crystal's concert back home and run that !

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CAMBEL 12:34 PM on 5/13/2010

311 Fans



I gave up caring when I saw that everybody they cast this year looked ready made for a photoshoot . Fantasia, Jennifer Hudson, even the heavier Kelly Clarkson would never have made it into this years group. And consequently the talent suffered for it. Crystal is good, but how would she have fared a few seasons ago competing against the contestants from other years on "Disco Night"?

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Baby Bump

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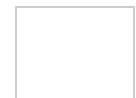
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MiraMcB 12:33 PM on 5/13/2010

166 Fans



Oh, forgot to mention... Interestingly, American Idol has put up a rather lengthy survey on it's main AI Board page. Lots of digging around about judges, format, guest judges, themes, etc. Haven't seen it mentioned here, that I can recall (could have missed it - sorry). Just thought I'd post on it in case anyone is interested in going over to check it out. I would LOVE to see them publish the results, which, of course, they won't.

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HUFFPOST BLOGGER

Michael Giltz 07:22 PM on 5/13/2010

59 Fans



Thanks! I'll check it out.

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MiraMcB 12:28 PM on 5/13/2010

166 Fans



Our reaction to Ryan's faux Bottom 2 was the same as yours. He kind of flubbed that, jmho. If he had put Michael in with Lee or Casey, there would have been some suspense, but the minute he paired up Michael with Crystal, everyone knew exactly how it was going to go, including poor Michael.

As for Michael going home, I felt bad for him. He's very talented; again, jmho. I hope someone picks him up on a contract. I'd like to see what kind of a CD he would put out. (Yeah, I know, I know... ITune and Rhapsody downloads, but some of us STILL will buy the entire CD, if it's good.) Whatever, it's that point in the season where someone's gonna go, good or not. C'est la guerre.

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Michael Giltz 07:23 PM on 5/13/2010

59 Fans



I'm absolutely certain Michael Lynche will get a record deal and have at least one stab at success. The nice thing about not winning is you don't get rushed. So maybe he'll be able to meet your expectations. Thanks for commenting.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER

thesmogger 12:03 PM on 5/13/2010

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I think this season's starting to wrap up as almost everyone had assumed...and next week will probably launch Lee and Crystal into the final two for the finale. While Casey may have a shot of breaking it up, it's looking tough unless things change momentum-wise quickly. Of course, there is also always a chance that we don't know who's really getting the most votes, but since Lee and Crystal have never been in the bottom 3, I'm going to guess it's them. <http://thesmogger.com/2010/05/13/idol-hangover-the-three-to-see/>

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DCDan 07:29 AM on 5/13/2010

2 Fans

Great piece, Allen24. I agree with all your ideas. One more though: Get rid of Randy Jackson. Indeed, he is truly awful this year. But let's be honest, he never really offered much in terms of constructive criticism or personality. He should have been ditched years ago with Dunkelman.

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HUFFPOST BLOGGER

Michael Giltz 07:24 PM on 5/13/2010

59 Fans



Ditched with Dunkelman? Ouch!

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TRichards 04:22 AM on 5/13/2010

84 Fans

Casey goes on and Mike goes home! Whatever American Idol is, it's certainly not a talent contest.

Just where is the talent of Casey James -- let alone any charisma? Teen and tween voting makes Idol a travesty.

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Allen24 10:29 PM on 5/12/2010

2 Fans

Another one bites the dust! Thank goodness Big Mike is gone!

To be honest though - apart from Crystal I really don't care who goes home and when!

I am such a huge Idol fan but this year has been a crushing disappointment - weak contestants, bad show themes, disappointing eliminations, checked out judges... I recently wrote a piece on the show - Fallen Idol - with 7 ways to turn the show around ahead of Season 10. Boy, does Idol need it!

<http://www.remotepatrolled.com/2010/04/fallen-idol/>

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MiraMcB 12:31 PM on 5/13/2010

166 Fans



We liked Michael Lynche. Apart from that, I agree with the rest of your remarks, except I don't even really care if Crystal goes. Not that invested in her. I think she has talent, but can't help but wonder how she will do out in the real world once Idol is over. No question, she's had a few very good moments, but she has also had some really blah ones, as well. As you pointed out, this has been a really poor season, so I'm wondering if we're just looking at the best of the worst? I guess time will tell.

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