

The Mole – Week #5

SPOILER ALERT – The following contains a synopsis of the June 30th episode of the ABC show, The Mole. Do not read if you don't want to know what happened, including results of the elimination quiz!

I got some really interesting comments about mole-y behavior on last week's post. They were thought provoking and fun to read, so keep them coming! As for this week, unfortunately my kids were going completely crazy during my viewing of the show, so I won't be able to go into much detail since I missed a lot.

My husband thought Craig was acting very mole-y. I somewhat agree, although I just don't get the moleish vibe from him. Could someone really be SO intolerant to cold weather just from living in California? If so, that seems really unhealthy! But anyway, back to the episode. In my opinion, Kristen and Mark were the least suspectable contestants left, so I just knew one of them was going to be eliminated. I think Paul seems like too much of a loose cannon to be the mole, but who knows, it could always be an act. This week, I think my official guess will be Nicole. It stinks because I think I'm really influenced by my husband's equation using Nicole's name – (N+I) (C+0) L E = M O L E

In past seasons, the show has been known to do things like this, and I just can't get it out of my head. Plus, last night I noticed a change in her personality where she seemed to act like an actual human being for the first time during the run of the show. So that makes me think the extreme bitchiness was just a facade and as the show progresses, it's starting to crack. I mean, could anyone really be THAT much of a bitch? During the first few weeks of the show, I thought that her extremely bitchy and arrogant personality excluded her from being the mole, but now I'm not so sure, and I don't know if it's just that equation getting to me or not.

So continue to comment and post your thoughts and feelings – I really enjoy reading all the theories and observations. Here are the official guesses for this week:

Jamiah – Paul

Chris – Paul

Taylhis – Nicole

The Mole Week #4

SPOILER ALERT!!! – The following is a summary of Monday, June 23rd's episode of The Mole – it contains outcomes and spoilers. Do not read any further if you don't want to know about past Mole episodes.

6/23/08 – The focus tonight was on Clay and Victoria. Since Victoria ended up getting eliminated, the episode's emphasis on Clay put my mole-suspecting focus back on him. That and his mole-y behavior. Before the gold-brick-up-the-mountain challenge, Clay made sure to talk about how little money he wanted his team to earn. He was so focused on getting up the mountain to win the exemption from the quiz that he specifically said that bringing bricks to earn money was not important. That's understandable, but then when they did get to the top of the mountain, and Clay already knew that his team had won the exemption, he was still making comments about how much money his team had won. And his comments were about how the team won too much money for his liking. Then, when it was discovered that the team had earned only one exemption and they had to decide which of the 3 got to use it, Clay both insisted to and bargained with his teammates in order to be able to use the exemption for himself. That seems like

something the mole would do in order to “prove” his or her “need” for the exemption – ie, throw others off his mole-y trail.

I hated how Nicole was Ahem-ing and blinking rapidly during the journal question activity at dinner, but then again, I hate many of the things she does. I hadn't really considered her for the mole until my husband brought up a very intriguing point – Take a look at Nicole's name: NICOLE. It's very easy to change Nicole's name to MOLE with a simple equation: If you “add” the N to the I, it makes an M. If you “add” the C to the O, it makes an O: $(N+I)(C+O)LE = MOLE$

The show has been known for slipping in little clues like this in the past. They will even highlight some of them in the finale once we find out who the mole is. Now I am really starting to consider Nicole. Her ultra-bitchy attitude could be a ploy for the cameras because she is the mole. She was just the woman you love to hate, so as an audience member, you don't want to think her awful personality is fake because you're busy hating her. But it's just a thought for now; I will keep a close eye on her now, that's for sure. For tonight's official guess, I'm going to have to go with Clay again. Chris is still guessing Paul. Though that Nicole hypothesis is a good one, I guess it wasn't enough to convince him of Nicole's role as the mole. Until next week...

The Mole Week #3

Watched this Mole episode a little late this week since the kids were rambunctious about settling down after an exciting week at Grandma's – turns out I hadn't missed much. I really liked the Fruit of the Luge challenge where the players divide into teams of 2, and one person is blindfolded and driving the

pair on a luge. The other player is supposed to call out the types of fruits that are depicted on signs they pass on the luge course. When they are at the end of the luge course, they are not to talk, and the blindfolded player takes off his or her blindfold and picks out the fruit in the order the other player had seen it. Alas, a few teams ended up getting their points taken away since they broke a rule and chatted after finishing the course. But it was an interesting challenge; an aspect of this show that I really enjoy. Unlike the following challenge... something about the contestants running around Chile in underwear trying to find clothes. It was a stupid, pointless, sell-out challenge; something that once set this reality show apart from the others because they hadn't yet stooped to this level – what a shame.

But anyway, no one really stuck out at me as being that mole tonight. Paul kinda was, but then when he got angry during dinner, it didn't seem mole-like to be so upset. But if he is the mole, maybe that was part of his game, who knows. Clay always seems to be in the background, and if it weren't for last week's episode where he had only about one line to say throughout the entire show, I would think it's him. But because of last week, I can't picture them only showing the mole once during an episode. The blonde neurologist is looking suspect also – her name escapes me at the moment. I also think it could be Nichole, but the whole point of Nichole is that she thinks she is so great at so many things when she really isn't so perfect because she's too busy being full of herself... I don't see how she'd have time to be the mole when she's so busy being so arrogant. And I definitely don't think the mole is Mark. There are a few people that just don't seem suspect to me, and Mark, Craig, the model and Bobby were 3 of those people. The model and Bobby are both gone now (YAY! I was getting so sick of Bobby's antics; he was not very likable), so I guess I was right about those two. So here is where I am so far:

POSSIBLE SUSPECTS:

Paul – My husband's top pick since the beginning. Tonight, he was standout mole-y to me, but he also doesn't seem smart enough to pull off being the mole... maybe just part of his act?

Alex – He's the guy who wins everything; every reality show has one. Usually they do pretty well and become finalists if not win the entire competition. I don't think he's the mole though, but he's more of a suspect than not at this point. It's getting on my nerves that he can speak such fluent spanish. I don't think they should have picked only one contestant with this ability when filming the show and doing the challenges in a spanish-speaking country.

Clay – I wish he wasn't so ignored last week, otherwise he would be my top guess again... he's just SO neutral seeming and in the background.

Kristen – the bike thing from last week made her a suspect... and she just acts generally mole-y; I can't really pinpoint it.

NOT ON MY SUSPECT LIST (yet)

Nichole – see above – the part about the being too arrogant to be the mole.

Craig – seems too genuine? I don't know what it is, but if this guy is the mole, he's good!

Victoria – Not only does she not seem very bright, but her infatuation with Bobby just doesn't fit as mole behavior. It wasn't obvious enough to be present to throw others off, so I think it was genuine. And besides the other clues she's given, the fact that she would have a genuine crush on a fellow reality show contestant, especially someone like Bobby all point to the fact that she is too dim to pull off being the mole.

Mark – something last week had me convinced he is NOT the mole, forgot what it was, but it sticks with me enough to know that I still do not suspect this guy at all. Just seems too real I guess.

I guess after re-reading my contestant breakdown, my official mole guess after seeing this week's episode is Clay.

Chris' guess is Paul.

Jamiahsh can post his guess in comments.

The Mole Week 2

After getting to watch week #2 of the new Mole season UNINTERRUPTED by kids since they're with Grandma this week (can't put a price on that by the way, it's funny how simple pleasures like watching a favorite tv show uninterrupted can feel really nice :)), I am going to change my mole guess from Clay to Kristen. I don't really have a good reason why; she was just acting kind of moley. And her way of sabotaging the task could have been to get that chain to keep falling off the bike, cuz that was unfortunate. Clay had like, one comment during the whole episode, and I just don't think they would shove the mole into the background like that. And I have to add that I just knew this week was going to be the end of Liz somehow. Chris thinks the mole is Paul, going with his first week's guess. I guess what I will do is give everybody a point for every week they guess the mole correctly at the end once we find out who it is. Do you have a guess this week, Jamiahsh? I got your comment on my other mole post, and I will repost it here:

After watching the first 2 episodes. It is definitely NOT BOBBY. Trying way too hard to draw attention to himself with his 'overexertion. It could be Alex... unless he really did leave his journal behind by mistake.

Interesting comment. We too, think that Bobby is drawing way too much attention to himself to be the mole. He's just coming across as a lazy jerk, and it's not fun to watch. I will go with Chris' theory on him – he is trying to throw off other players by acting like the mole. I see Alex as the guy who wins everything – there's always one of those on every reality show – and I don't think he's the mole. I don't know whether or not he left his journal laying around on purpose. He could have done so or he could have left it accidentally and just tried to cover it up with the explanation of trying to throw others off. But anyway, another good episode, and here is where we stand on mole guesses:

Lisa – Clay, Kristen

Chris – Paul, Paul

Jamiahsh – Clay, ?

The Mole is Back!

The Mole is the best reality show ever, I think. And now it is back for another season, starting Monday, June 2. It airs on ABC, and I highly recommend it. A quick synopsis in case you missed my previous post about the Mole – 12 contestants complete various stunts and missions, although one of them is the mole. The audience and other players don't know who the mole is, and he or she tries to sabotage the missions while staying undercover. Each week, the contestants take a quiz about the mole, and the person who guesses the most answers incorrectly must leave the game. About the new season, I must say how much I don't like the new host, but other than that, the show seems to be just as it was before – extremely entertaining, thought provoking, and FUN!

I think it'd be fun to keep a running tally of Mole guesses for viewers who read my blog. So if you're a Mole fan also, submit your guess to me each week and I will post it. So far after week one, my guess for the Mole would be Clay, and Chris is guessing Paul.

It's fun to see if anyone can guess who the mole is from early on, so stay tuned to my blog throughout the summer for updates on the show, and if you decide to watch it, and I HIGHLY recommend that you do, join in the fun by posting me a comment with your thoughts on the episodes and guesses on who is...
THE MOLE!

Japanese “Inventions”

When I was talking about the best reality show ever, The Mole, the other day, it made me think of my second favorite: American Inventor. It was a show where people brought their inventions in front of a panel of judges, and the “good” ones advanced until a winner was chosen. This show was fun to watch because some of the inventions were horrible ideas, and when the inventor pitched them, it was hilarious to see their inventions and the judges' reactions to them. It was also heartbreaking at times because there were people who put up everything they had to pursue the development of their invention – and some were so bad, they never had a chance. Take Bulletball, for instance. It was a game invented one night while the inventor and his wife sipped wine and batted a cat's toy ball back and forth across a table. So the inventor proceeded to invest everything he had, even living in his car, to develop the “high caliber” tabletop game of bulletball. One of the judges asks, “So if you invested everything, what do you have?” His reply? “I have Bulletball.” Oh my. His

segment on the show was very memorable (and sad – you had to feel sorry for someone who was so determined, yet his idea was SO bad, all 4 judges said no and broke his heart) that we were talking about it the other day and decided to look it up on youtube. So, I will share his clip with you. I admire his determination, but even I wouldn't get Bulletball if I spotted it at the thrift store... see below.

I wonder if American Inventor is going to return? It was a good show, but the problem with it was that the inventions that end up winning aren't realistic. Both of the winning inventions were born out of tragedy, one was a special protective car seat thought up by a guy who lost his daughter in a car accident. The other was a Christmas tree that extinguished itself if it caught on fire. Both good ideas, but not really practical when you take cost and other factors into consideration. But anyway, I'd like to see the show again, even if they keep choosing winners based on emotional reasons.

While we were looking up American Inventor on youtube, we came across this wacky video from Japan. They call these "inventions", and they are contraptions that make a series – random objects falling, hitting other objects, etc. in order to cause the next reaction until there's a whole chain of them. Think of the game Mousetrap (found that one a few weeks ago, by the way, but it's missing the big ball!) or dominoes without the dominoes. Check it out below. You'll notice that after each series of reactions, there's a cute little Japanese song that plays – it's actually quite catchy. There are a bunch of these on the video, it's over 9 minutes long in case you're wondering while you watch if it'll ever end. I wonder if these "inventions" are shorts that aired on Japanese tv, maybe before or after some weekly show or something? Who knows, but it's fun to see the different things they came up with: