



EPISODE RECAP: DEC. 1, 2005 THE APPRENTICE | 9/8 PM THURSDAY | NBC

Donald: Insights on the Apprentice

We saw a great twist at the end in the board room! Based on Carolyn's statements last week, we were set up to expect Felisha would be fired the next time she ended up in the board room, but that Alla couldn't keep her mouth shut, and given their performance on the task, it was absolutely the right thing to do to let them both go.

Felisha's biggest problem on this task was her insecurity and her need for control. She was really trying to prove that she was a good leader by trying to control Alla. When you are leading a strong individual or a team, you have to be able to set a clear goal for the person or team and get out of their way. Felisha's insecurity and need for control made her a micromanager and created a series of fits and starts which interfered with her team's chances of winning.

Alla's biggest problem is that she can't be a part of a team unless she is the leader. Even as a strong leader, you have to be able to develop the skill set of a follower. You need to be able to step out of the spotlight and allow others to lead. A strong leader can step back into the team and be a team member, not only a team leader. You heard it from her directly in the taxi exit interview, "I have been told I can be difficult to lead, but not if you're the right leader."

The final episodes should be interesting. I think it's a toss up. Randall has a better performance record, he's been unflappable, and very gracious. Rebecca hasn't performed as strongly, but she has stepped up every time her team has needed her to do so. It will really come down to their performance on the last task.