



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Crookston, MN | Accident Number: | CEN09CA008 |
| Date & Time: | 10/01/2008, 1520 CDT | Registration: | N251ND |
| Aircraft: | PIPER PA-28-161 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control on ground | Injuries: | 1 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional | | |

Analysis

The student pilot stated that he was established on final approach for runway 31 (4,300 feet by 75 feet, dry asphalt) and "everything was on track." When the airplane crossed the threshold, he reduced engine power and began the landing flare. After touchdown, the student pilot applied the brakes, which resulted in a skid and he was unable to maintain control. The airplane subsequently departed the runway pavement and came to rest in a ditch. The left main landing gear collapsed. The student pilot was performing his first landing on his initial solo flight at the time of the accident. He noted that the skies were clear and the winds were calm. The pilot reported that he had accumulated 13 hours total flight time, with 9 hours in the same make and model airplane. A post accident inspection did not reveal any anomalies associated with a pre impact failure or malfunction.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's failure to maintain directional control during landing. A contributing factor was the student pilot's limited flight experience. Additional factors were the presence of the ditch adjacent to the runway and the resulting collapse of the left main landing gear.

Findings

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| Aircraft | Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause) Main gear strut/axle/truck - Capability exceeded (Factor) |
| Personnel issues | Total experience - Student pilot (Factor) |
| Environmental issues | Sloped/uneven terrain - Contributed to outcome (Factor) |

Factual Information

History of Flight

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|----------------|---|
| Landing | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Runway excursion Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) Landing gear collapse |
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Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Certificate: | Student | Age: | 21, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | None | Seat Occupied: | Left |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | Seatbelt, Shoulder harness |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations | Last Medical Exam: | 07/16/2008 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | 10/01/2008 |
| Flight Time: | 13 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9 hours (Total, this make and model) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Aircraft Manufacturer: | PIPER | Registration: | N251ND |
| Model/Series: | PA-28-161 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 2842042 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tricycle | Seats: | 4 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 08/26/2008, AAIP | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 2447 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 6703 Hours | Engine Manufacturer: | LYCOMING |
| ELT: | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | O-320 |
| Registered Owner: | UND AEROSPACE FOUNDATION | Rated Power: | 180 hp |
| Operator: | UND AEROSPACE FOUNDATION | Air Carrier Operating Certificate: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | CKN, 899 ft msl | Observation Time: | 1500 CDT |
| Distance from Accident Site: | 1 Nautical Miles | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Direction from Accident Site: | 360° | Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Temperature/Dew Point: | 10°C / 6°C |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility | 10 Miles |
| Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | Calm | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Altimeter Setting: | | Visibility (RVV): | |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Crookston, MN (CKN) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Crookston, MN (CKN) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 1315 CDT | Type of Airspace: | |

Airport Information

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|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Airport: | Crookston Muni (CKN) | Runway Surface Type: | Asphalt |
| Airport Elevation: | 899 ft | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 31 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 4300 ft / 75 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full Stop; Traffic Pattern |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|---------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 None | | |

Administrative Information

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|-----------------------------------|--|---------------|------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Timothy Sorensen | Adopted Date: | 12/03/2008 |
| Additional Participating Persons: | James Curry; FAA-Minneapolis FSDO; Minneapolis, MN | | |
| Publish Date: | 12/03/2008 | | |
| Note: | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB. | | |
| Investigation Docket: | NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ . | | |

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