



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Plant City, FL	Accident Number:	GAA19CA580
Date & Time:	09/23/2019, 0920 EDT	Registration:	N739RT
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	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 reported that, during a solo flight in the pattern, the airplane encountered a "moderate wind" from the left during landing. The pilot corrected with right rudder application, and the airplane touched down on the right side of the runway centerline. The student retracted the flaps to perform a touch-and-go landing and increased engine power. Subsequently, the airplane veered left and exited the runway. The airplane then impacted a ditch and came to rest. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing spar. The student reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

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 the aborted landing, which resulted in a runway excursion and impact with a ditch.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Sloped/uneven terrain - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	18, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/19/2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 45 hours (Total, all aircraft), 45 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 45 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N739RT
Model/Series:	172 N	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1978	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17270751
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	07/18/2019, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	10439.2 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-L2A
Registered Owner:	Bartow Municipal Airport Development Aut	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	Bartow Municipal Airport Development Aut	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot School (141)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPCM, 154 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1315 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	245°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.09 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 20° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lakeland, FL (LAL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Plant City, FL (PCM)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0906 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Plant City (PCM)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	152 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	10	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3950 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and Go; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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	Latitude, Longitude:	28.000278, -82.163333 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Report Date:	03/17/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Blake; FAA; Tampa, FL		
Publish Date:	03/17/2020		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=100361		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).