

National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 05/23/1997

NYC96LA161
File No. 1204 08/03/1996 PITTSBURGH, PA Aircraft Reg No. N2552Z Time (Local): 16:18 EDT

Make/Model:	American Champion (ACAC) / 8KCAB	Fatal	0	Serious	0	Minor/None	1
Engine Make/Model:	Lycoming / AEIO-360-H1A	Crew	0				
Aircraft Damage:	Substantial	Pass	0		0		0
Number of Engines:	1						
Operating Certificate(s):	None						
Type of Flight Operation:	Personal						
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation						

Last Depart. Point:	Same as Accident/Incident Location	Condition of Light:	Day
Destination:	Same as Accident/Incident Location	Weather Info Src:	Weather Observation Facility
Airport Proximity:	On Airport	Basic Weather:	Visual Conditions
Airport Name:	ALLEGHENY COUNTY	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Runway Identification:	28	Visibility:	15.00 SM
Runway Length/Width (Ft):	6500 / 150	Wind Dir/Speed:	Calm
Runway Surface:	Concrete	Temperature (°C):	29
Runway Surface Condition:	Dry	Precip/Obscuration:	None / None

Pilot-in-Command	Age: 46	Flight Time (Hours)
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)		Total All Aircraft: 173
Private; Single-engine Land		Last 90 Days: 10
Instrument Ratings		Total Make/Model: 19
None		Total Instrument Time: 1

The private pilot had performed eight touch and go landings with a certified flight instructor, and was approved for solo flight in the airplane. The pilot then performed two solo touch and go landings. During a third touch and go landing, the airplane was aligned to the left of the runway. When the pilot attempted to correct back to the runway, the right wing struck the runway, and the airplane ground looped. The winds were reported calm at the time of the accident.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

1. (C) PROPER ALIGNMENT - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. STALL/MUSH - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - RUNWAY

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
The pilot's failure to maintain alignment with the runway, and his failure to maintain control of the airplane during the aborted landing, which resulted in the inadvertent stall/mush, and collision with the runway.