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AS-CEN

**Date:** March 15, 2023  
**Subject:** CEN23LA128  
**Contact:** Martin Zarate - Pilot of N969WD

Spoke with Mr. Zarate by telephone. He confirmed that he was the pilot of N969WD, that was involved in an accident on March 10, 2023, in La Veta, CO. He informed me that he had already completed the NTSB report form and it was ready to send in. I obtained his e-mail address and sent him an e-mail so that he could send the completed form in by return e-mail. I asked him to describe what happened. He said that he had just purchased the airplane and he and a friend were there to fly the airplane back to Texas. They performed a thorough preflight and run-up and then proceeded to take off from runway 24. When the airplane was about 400-500 agl the engine rpms dropped. He glided down to about 100 ft agl and the airplane "flipped". When asked if it flipped due to an aerodynamic stall he confirmed that it had. I asked which fuel tank was selected and the fuel tank configuration. The airplane had 4 fuel tanks with inboard and outboard wing tanks on each side. He said the outboard tanks were empty because of weight and balance because there were 2 people on-board, and that the inboard tanks were full. He said he was running on the inboard right tank when the accident occurred.