Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Frederick, Maryland	**Accident Number:**	ERA20CA107
Date & Time:	February 21, 2020, 12:15 Local	**Registration:**	N71GC
Aircraft:	Orlican L60	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	**Injuries:**	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was practicing landings as part of a check-out flight. During the final approach, the airplane ballooned slightly, which the pilot attributed to a wind gust. He flared the balloon and then touched down, and the airplane began to veer left. He attempted to correct with full right rudder, right brake, and left aileron. As the airplane came to a stop on the runway, the right main landing gear buckled, and the right wing struck the runway. The airport's automated weather observation station reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was calm; however, the pilot reported that, after he egressed from the airplane, he saw that the windsock indicated a crosswind. The pilot 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 pilot's failure to maintain airplane control during the approach, which resulted in the airplane ballooning and then veering left upon landing and the right wing impacting the runway.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	(general) - Not attained/maintained
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Not specified

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-VFR pattern final	Other weather encounter
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing-landing roll	Landing gear collapse

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	57,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	September 20, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	December 4, 2019
Flight Time:	1024 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1 hours (Total, this make and model), 1003 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Orlican	**Registration:**	N71GC
Model/Series:	L60 SF	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1958	**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	**Serial Number:**	150827
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 17, 2019 Condition	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	3492 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3925 Hrs at time of accident	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Walter
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	**Engine Model/Series:**	M462RF
Registered Owner:	Deutsch American Trading Llc	**Rated Power:**	315 Horsepower
Operator:	Deutsch American Trading Llc	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FDK,303 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	12:23 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	266°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/
Wind Direction:		**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.54 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	1°C / -13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Frederick, MD (FDK)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Frederick, MD (FDK)	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	11:45 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	Frederick Muni FDK	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	306 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	05	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	5219 ft / 100 ft	**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Touch and go

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	39.417499,-77.374168(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Brazy, Douglass
Additional Participating Persons:	Sandy Geer; FAA/FSDO; Baltimore, MD
Original Publish Date:	August 27, 2020
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=100976

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