



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Lodi, Wisconsin	Accident Number:	CEN23LA209
Date & Time:	May 29, 2023, 11:00 Local	Registration:	N994TA
Aircraft:	Kolb Firestar SS	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during takeoff from a grass runway, a sudden wind gust from the rear caused the airplane to weathervane to the right and lose lift. The pilot was unable to correct for the gust before the airplane impacted the ground and nosed over. Both wings and the empennage were substantially damage during the nose over. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. At the time of the accident, the pilot was taking off on runway 27 with wind from 150° at 6 knots.

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 control during takeoff.

Findings

Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	(general) - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Takeoff	Ground collision
Takeoff	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	85, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	BasicMed None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 21, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1226 hours (Total, all aircraft), 108 hours (Total, this make and model), 1200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Kolb	Registration:	N994TA
Model/Series:	Firestar SS	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2007	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental light sport (Special)	Serial Number:	456
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 28, 2023 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	850 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	108 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Hirth
ELT:	C91 installed	Engine Model/Series:	3203
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KDLL, 976 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	16 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	317°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 5°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lodi, WI	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lodi, WI	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Lodi Lakeland 9WN5	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	844 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	1900 ft / 105 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	43.326679,-89.520585(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Finne, Andrew
Additional Participating Persons:	Veselka, Mike; FAA-FSDO; Milwaukee , WI
Original Publish Date:	July 7, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192259

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).