Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Afton, Wyoming	**Accident Number:**	ANC24LA035
Date & Time:	May 16, 2024, 20:38 Local	**Registration:**	N9998D
Aircraft:	Piper PA-22-150	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	**Injuries:**	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The commercial pilot, seated in the right seat, and the student pilot and airplane owner, seated in the left seat, reported that the purpose of the flight was a local flight in the student pilot's newly acquired airplane. Both pilots reported that they had just met for the first time just before the accident flight. The commercial pilot added that she was unaware that the airplane owner was only a student pilot.

The student pilot reported that, during takeoff, the commercial pilot applied full power, the airplane lifted off the runway momentarily, settled back onto the runway surface, then subsequently lost directional control of the airplane. The airplane departed the right side of the runway, struck two fences, and nosed over which resulted in substantial damage to the wings and wing struts.

The commercial pilot reported that, during takeoff roll, the student pilot was in control of the airplane. The commercial pilot stated that the student pilot held full power and brakes throughout the accident sequence.

Review of photos taken at the accident site show witness marks on the runway surface, adjacent taxiway, and grass consistent with the application of brakes throughout the accident sequence. The brakes are only operable from the left seat in the accident airplane.

The student pilot reported that, during a postaccident inspection of the airplane, he found that the elevator trim was set to the full nose-up position.

The commercial pilot and the student 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 commercial pilot's failure to maintain directional control of the airplane during takeoff. Contributing was the student pilot's application of brakes during the takeoff roll and the failure of both pilots to maintain a positive transfer of controls.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	CRM/MRM techniques - Flight crew

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	**Age:**	33,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	**Seat Occupied:**	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	**Second Pilot Present:**	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	April 1, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	4500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 75 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	**Age:**	21,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	**Seat Occupied:**	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	**Second Pilot Present:**	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:	None None	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	July 19, 2022
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 48 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	**Registration:**	N9998D
Model/Series:	PA-22-150	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	**Serial Number:**	22-6791
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 8, 2023 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	20 Hrs	**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3381.52 Hrs as of last inspection	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed	**Engine Model/Series:**	O-320
Registered Owner:	On file	**Rated Power:**	150 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:	AFO,6221 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:35 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	3°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	None / None
Wind Direction:		**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	0°C / 0°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Afton, WY	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Afton, WY	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:		**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Afton Municipal AFO	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	6221 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	34	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	7025 ft / 75 ft	**VFR Approach/Landing:**	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:		**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	42.71378,-110.94049

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rasmussen, Mitchell
Additional Participating Persons:	Felix Mendoza; FAA - Denver FSDO
Original Publish Date:	March 13, 2025
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=194300