



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Clarksville, Tennessee	Accident Number:	ERA10CA061
Date & Time:	November 12, 2009, 10:30 Local	Registration:	N315AC
Aircraft:	AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT 8GCBC	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane stated that he elected to depart from runway 17 with a wind from 050 degrees at 7 knots with gusts to 9 knots, although runway 05 was available. During the takeoff roll he "lost directional control." The airplane departed the runway into a grassy area on the left side of the runway and then ground-looped, substantially damaging the right wing. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or anomalies. The weather reporting facility at the accident airport reported that, approximately 38 minutes before the accident and 22 minutes after the accident, the wind was from the east-northeast at 6 to 7 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 directional control during the takeoff roll. Contributing to the accident was his decision to take off with a left quartering tailwind.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Decision related to condition

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	44,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 5, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 6, 2009
Flight Time:	909 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model), 502 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT	Registration:	N315AC
Model/Series:	8GCBC	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	421-2000
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 2, 2008 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	460 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O&VO-360 SER
Registered Owner:	TMS AVIATION LLC	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	TMS AVIATION LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CKV, 550 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	10:52 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Clarksville, TN (CKV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Clarksville, TN (CKV)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Outlaw Field CKV	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	17	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6000 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	36.621944,-87.414718(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Monville, Timothy
Additional Participating Persons:	Gerald Martelli; FAA/FSDO; Nashville, TN
Original Publish Date:	May 6, 2010
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.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=75045

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