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Aviation Safety

Date: August 6th, 20024

Subject: ANC24LA074

Contact: Pilot James Brice Harrington

During a phone interview with the pilot, he reported doing a short approach on a previous flight into Fairbanks International Airport. The tower personnel commended him on the short approach, a few days later, feeling bolstered by the previously successful short approach, he said he decided to do another one. It was close to civil twilight, he said it was a little darker than previous flights and noted his sight picture was different. He applied full flaps before turning base to final. He pulled the power and began his base to final turn. Mid-turn he realized how rapidly he was sinking, and was lower than expected, he felt his left wing strike the runway. He immediately began a go around but realized quickly he was already too slow. The airplane started a significant roll to the left. He does not remember correcting for the left roll but he was able to maintain enough directional control to successfully land on the dirt strip directly ahead of runway 02R.