

El Al jet crashes into Amsterdam housing complex

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — An Israeli cargo jet with engine trouble crashed into a suburban apartment complex shortly after takeoff Sunday night and set off a deadly inferno.

At least 12 bodies were found, but the fire and danger of structural collapse slowed rescuers. Dutch television said police feared up to 200 people may have died.

The El Al Boeing 747 carried a three-man crew and one woman passenger, all of whom were killed, the carrier said.

It was the Netherlands' worst air disaster and the first crash in El Al's 44-year history, an airline spokesman said.

The pilot was trying to wrestle the jumbo jet back to Schiphol Airport after

both engines on the same wing died, airline officials said. An official refused to rule out sabotage as a possible cause.

The jet slammed into the juncture of two nine-story apartment buildings, spewing flames and burning wreckage over a wide area of Duivendrecht (pronounced DOW-ven-drecht), six miles east of the airport in the working-class suburb south of Amsterdam.

Residents searched frantically for family members in the hellish landscape of fire, smoke and chaos that shattered a clear and cool evening. Dozens of people jumped out of windows to escape the inferno, radio reported.

As helicopters circled with searchlights, hundreds of rescue workers dug

for bodies around the edges of the mountain of rubble but could not go further because the structures were on the verge of collapse.

The fire was brought under control within four hours of the crash but continued burning throughout the night.

"It crashed right into the building. I saw the wings and all ignited. It exploded into one huge sea of fire," said resident Mark van der Linden.

The plane tore a hole six apartments wide and nine floors deep at the juncture of the two wings of the complex and set them ablaze. Amsterdam Mayor Ed van Thijn said at least 50 apartments were gutted.

The low-income housing project, built

in the 1960s, houses many people on rent support as well as refugees.

The Amsterdam Medical Center Hospital said it treated at least 27 burn victims.

Airline officials dismissed early suspicion of a terrorist strike, which could have jeopardized sensitive Middle East peace talks.

But asked about sabotage and terrorism, El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman later said it was too soon to rule out any possible causes of the engine failures. "We have no details, the investigation has not taken place yet and until it does we cannot say anything," Klieman said.

Klieman confirmed the crash was El Al's first.

VICTORY

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kicker I have ever coached," Brooks said. "That includes four years in the NFL. He gets his punts and kickoffs high and he has a very strong leg."

Oregon began to break the game open in the third quarter with the help of some Arizona State miscues. After Thompson kicked his fourth field goal of the game, safety Eric Castle hit Sun Devil quarterback Grady Benton. Benton fumbled the ball at the Arizona State 13-yard line and Oregon cornerback Herman O'Berry fell on it.

Two plays later, Oregon running back Sean Burwell scored from nine yards out to give the Ducks a 25-14 lead. Oregon elected to go for the two-point

conversion and O'Neil hit Burwell to put the Ducks up by 13 points.

Burwell was the only Duck running back who found success against Arizona State's eight-man front. Burwell ran for 115 yards on 25 carries, his third consecutive game with more than 100 yards.

"The offensive line is playing well, so I have a lot of confidence," Burwell said. "We know we can score points."

Whittle, who rushed for over 200 total yards in the last two games, struggled on Saturday, rushing for only five yards on seven carries. A bright spot in the Oregon running game was Deadwiler, who rushed for 46 yards on four reverses.

"I was very pleased with the play of the offensive line,"

Brooks said. "We ran the ball well considering the eight- and nine-man pressure that Arizona State put on us."

Thompson kicked his final field goal of the game at the beginning of the fourth quarter, and despite giving up a late touchdown pass, the Ducks held on to win.

"I am very pleased with my team," Brooks said. "We gave them too many opportunities and gave up some cheap touchdowns, but I was happy with the way our defense contained their running game."

The victory was Oregon's third in a row and raised the Ducks' record to 3-2 overall, 1-1 in the conference.

WIN

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ing to see from his young team, which includes eight freshmen and sophomores.

"I liked the game because no one quit, and everyone was fighting hard," Gregory said. "I don't really care about the outcome of a game as long as we're fighting hard, which is something we didn't do in some earlier matches."

Warren said game one determined the outcome of the entire match.

"Winning game one was a big boost for us as it gave us a lot of confidence. That was

the key point of the whole match as the momentum shifted our way," Warren said. "I knew right then we would win the next two games."

LaReina Woods, who finished the game with 10 kills and a team-high 23 digs, said the win eased some of the frustration that had been building in recent weeks.

"We should have beaten Washington to start the season, and we certainly should have beaten Cal last week," Woods said. "Everyone was getting frustrated, but tonight's performance should boost our confidence level way up."

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