



# Spring madness: The most extreme tornadoes of the 1990s (Round 4)

M A R C H 2 4 , 2 0 1 6 T O R N A D O I E S T O R Y

Posted March 24, updated March 31, April 7, and April 14.



Lazbuddie, Texas during May 1991 (YouTube)

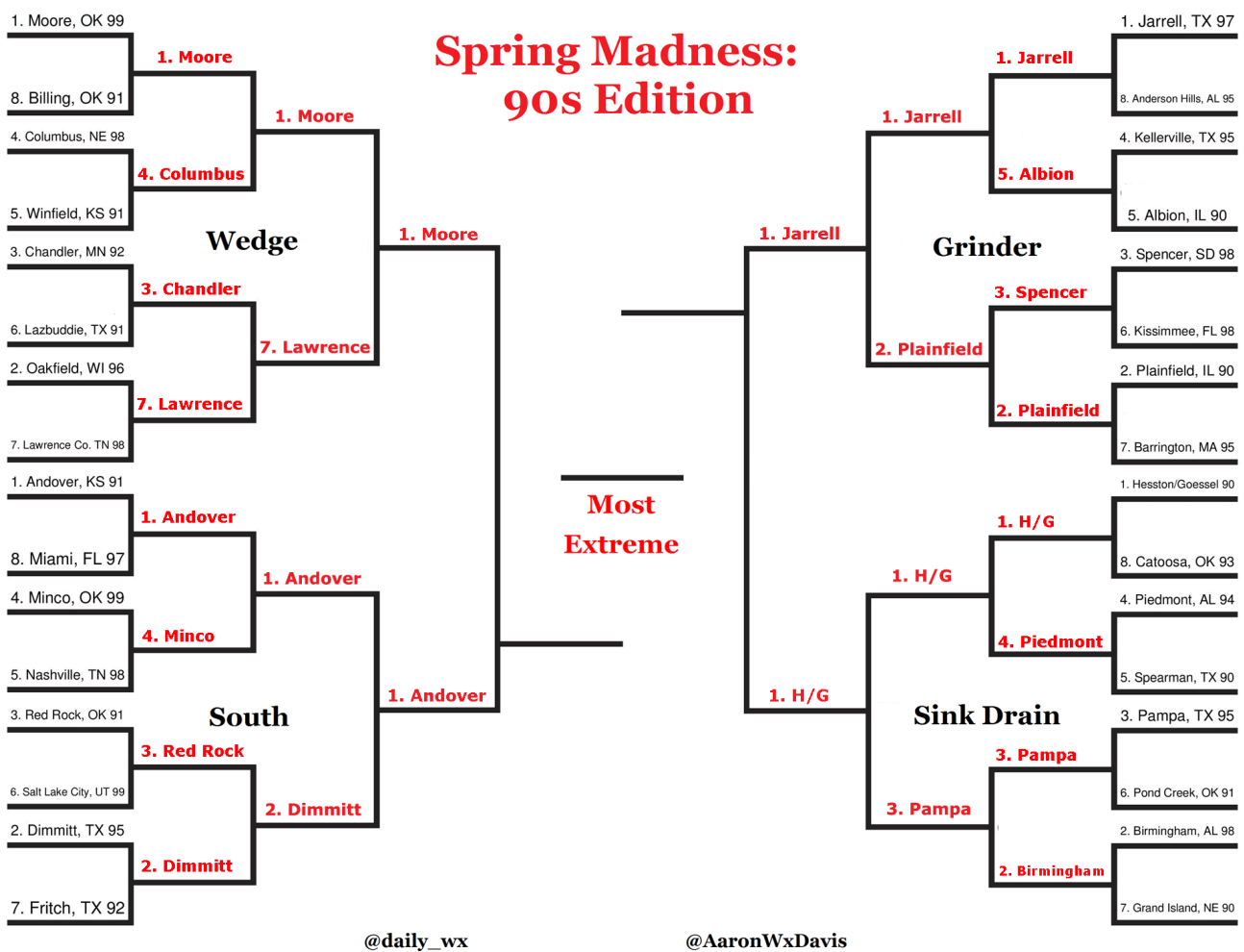
by Aaron Davis and Mitch Feiler

In honor of March Madness, we are proud to introduce *Spring Madness: 90s edition*.

Are you tired of looking at your already ruined March Madness (MM) bracket? Good! Then this is the perfect thing for you. We sat down and took 32 of what we thought were the most extreme tornadoes of the 1990s, gave them a seed and a bracket location, and are happy to share the final results.

On this page you will find the rules, the bracket, a write up of each tornado, and a voting option. Even if you are not a major weather junkie, we think you'll be able to play well. For Round 1, we've done a sports-style write up of each tornado to give you an idea of how the match-up could turn out. We'll try and do something like this for each round, but can't guarantee it with work schedules.

If during the course of this event you find yourself having any issues with any of the images or links, please contact [Aaron](#) or [Mitch](#).



1. Much like a standard MM bracket, you will print this one off, and fill it out on how you feel the tournament will go (or you can just look at it, it's guidance, whatever is easiest). But if you fill it out you can see how you do in the end!

2. Unlike the real MM tournament, tornadoes can't really play each other in real life (we wish) so we are leaving it up to you to decide the outcome. The bracket is set up just like a real one. So when voting, keep in mind that in this round the number one seed is playing the number eight seed, #2 VS #7, #3 VS #6, and etc.
3. Each match-up may not receive the same number of votes, though we encourage you to vote for all. You can come back later (before the deadline!) to finish. Winners will be decided on whichever tornado in each match-up has the most votes. If it's a tie, we'll be the tiebreaker.
4. There are no rules, rules are an illusion. This is a free-for-all, this is Sparta.
5. Disregard #4.



~~Feel free to tweet your bracket at us @USTornadoes @AaronWxDavis @daily\_wx during the first round for use in the final post that announces the winner.~~

*6 days for voting*

~~Round 1: Thursday Mar 24 11a thru Wednesday Mar 30 10:59a~~

~~Sweet 16: Thursday Mar 31 11a thru Wednesday Apr 6 10:59a~~

~~Elite 8: Thursday Apr 7 11a thru Wednesday Apr 13 10:59a~~

*3 days for voting*

**Final 4:** Thursday Apr 14 11a thru Sunday Apr 17 10:59a

**Tornado championship:** Monday Apr 18 11a thru Thursday Apr 21 10:59a

**Winner announced:** Friday Apr 22 or Monday Apr 25



Final four here we come: in a not so surprising twist-er (punny), all of the number one seeds have made it. We're interested in seeing how the bracket plays out from this moment forward. We had a strong feeling this is how the final four would end up, but how it looks going into the championship is anyone's guess.

---

### **#1 Moore, OK 99 VS. #1 Andover, KS 91**

**Moore** did it. Unlike the basketball team down the road, Moore made it to the final four (put the pitchforks away, wanted OU to win it all, too). In retrospect, some of the matchups Moore had were disrespectful since the competition didn't stand a chance. This is where it all changes. In order for the Moore tornado to be crowned most extreme, it will have to overcome two of best tornadoes of the 1990s, perhaps even of all time. First stop on Moore's trip: Andover, KS

Strength: F5

Winds: 300+ MPH

Damage: \$1 billion USD

**Moore Video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG1z\\_llxOFo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG1z_llxOFo) (Sorry for the documentary link)

We're not surprised to see **Andover** in the final four at all. It produced some of the best home video of all time in the McConnell AFB footage. One interesting thing people may not know about this storm is that the next tornado it produced would be the same one featured in the infamous "underpass" video. We're very interested to see how one of the most recorded F5s in history will fair against the Moore storm. Wouldn't call Andover the underdog, but also wouldn't call it the favorite. This matchup could go either way.

Strength: F5

Winds: 260+ MPH estimated

Damage: ~\$100 million USD

#### **Andover Videos:**

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkxRaX62Hkk>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdNImASqseM>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sllF4R9IC18>

### **#1 Moore, OK 99 VS. #1 Andover, KS 91**

#1 Moore, OK 99 (74%, 31 Votes)



#1 Andover, KS 91 (26%, 11 Votes)



Total Voters: 42

---

### **#1 Jarrell, TX 97 VS. #1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90**

This bracket has given the perfect excuse to thoroughly research and look into each of these outbreaks and tornadoes. During the process, we came away with a newfound respect for the **Jarrell**, TX storm. Already mentioned the odd conditions the tornado formed under, and the sheer amount of damage the storm caused, but the most amazing thing about this high CAPE, low shear storm is how quickly it went from a rope to a massive, multi-vortex wedge.

Strength: F5

Winds: 261+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$40+ million USD

**Jarrell Video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc1O1d\\_7HPU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc1O1d_7HPU)

#TeamPampa is no more, after a late surge (not sure how) the **Hesston/Goessel** twins have made it to the final four. As much as we love the H/G twins, the bias towards them will be harder to maintain going forward. In the past it was easy to root for H/G. Really, how could you not vote for an F5 tornado that literally ate another F5 tornado? However, in the next two

matchups, it wouldn't be an upset in any of the possible scenarios. We're down to the best four, and each one of them is deserving of moving on to the championship game.

Strength: Extreme F5

Winds: 300+ MPH Estimated

Damage: Yes

### Hesston/Goessel Video:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCUHtyFcRUI>
2. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsIT4\\_HwPiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsIT4_HwPiM)

### #1 Jarrell, TX 97 VS. #1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90

#1 Jarrell, TX 97 (78%, 32 Votes)



#1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90 (22%, 9 Votes)



Total Voters: 41



*Try to ignore the weird text errors in spots. The main text info came through OK at least!*

Round 1 (32 tornadoes)

Round 2 (16 tornadoes)

Round 3 (8 tornadoes)



<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.weather.gov/>

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?>

[nid=1906&dat=19900410&id=b\\_4fAAAAIABJ&sjid=Bv8EAAAAIABJ&pg=5148,4487056&hl=en](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1906&dat=19900410&id=b_4fAAAAIABJ&sjid=Bv8EAAAAIABJ&pg=5148,4487056&hl=en)

<http://www.newson6.com/>

<http://www.tornadohistoryproject.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/>

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/outbreaks/>

**Editor's note (March 24):** While this post is intended to be entertaining/educational, there is nothing fun about a tornado that slams into population. Sadly, many of these events killed people or otherwise destroyed lives. At the same time, as always, we believe being as informed as possible about tornadoes – including their history and this is a great look at 1990s history – helps to keep people safer

— including their history, and this is a great look at 1990s history — helps to keep people safer.


**Additional note (March 31):** The general sentiment toward this post has been in the fashion it was envisioned and posted here. A lighthearted one. Given the subject matter, perhaps that was the wrong way to go about it all. The positive to negative comment ratio has been about 50 to 1, but the negative comments all made sense and each made salient points. In retrospect, this type of idea may always be outside the highest of taste due to the fact that many of these tornadoes disastrously changed the lives of not only those impacted but the people that knew them. While we thought the 1990s was far enough removed to diminish the freshness of those scars, it's possible we erred in that conclusion. Given the fact that this was a neat idea with no sort of ill will meant, and one full of historical relevance, we will continue the tournament through conclusion as the schedule shows below. However, we will limit official advertisement from here. We apologize to anyone who was offended, that was certainly not the intent. -U.S. Tornadoes leads

**Editor's note:** A previous version of the title included the word "greatest." That has been changed out for "most extreme." Greatest can be a measure of intensity/ability, as the term was used here, but it can also be misconstrued in any number of other manners.



Aaron Davis is a storm chaser and recent college meteorology graduate. He loves all things weather, and is currently trying to pursue a career in the National Weather Service. Mitch Feiler has been an avid weather enthusiast since the age of 5, and is the founder of Daily Weather Updates.

Bio Latest Posts



.SU  
Our multiple-author or special post account.



Tagged with: [1990s Tornadoes](#), [March Madness](#), [Poll](#), [Tornado Bracket](#), [Tornado Videos](#), [Weather Videos](#)



7 T H O U G H T S O N

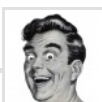


Chris Tipton says:

M A R 2  
2 0 1 6

Very cool

R E P L Y



KoHoSo says:

A P R 0  
2 0 1 6

Having added to this myself through my T witter account, I also want to say I'm sorry to anybody that had this bring up bad memories or feelings. It's always a tough call for those of us that are fascinated and excited over severe weather as to where the line is between fun and seriousness. I think it has been made more difficult in recent years as those of us following this interest surround ourselves online with others who know a lot of inside jokes and references where, among this group, we know full well this is a sort of gallows humor (plus, an honest scientific interest in what storms were most impressive in categories both physical and psychological that, to outsiders, can seem as silly as arguing over whether the 1960s Packers were better than the 1980s 49'ers). Even though it was not the result for some, I hope anybody hurt by this will understand that no disrespect was intended.

R E P L Y



Ian Livingston says:

A P R  
2 0 1 6

I don't think anyone meant to be disrespectful. The info in the post was/is great as well. It would have been tempting to just leave it be but we did get a note from someone who said their family was impacted by Jarrell and others also made some good points. I do think as "tornado aficionados" sometimes we can accidentally/briefly forget what they can do. They're an amazing sight to behold in addition to being quite terrible at times.

R E P L Y



**tatsumaki416 says:**

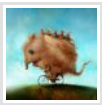
A P R 0  
2 0 1 6

Hesston/Goessel is still the most impressive to me, buuuuut... it's worth noting that Tom Grazulis (of Significant Tornadoes fame) considers (as of 2001) the Pampa tornado to be the most intense he'd ever seen video of. From the "F5/F6 Tornadoes" companion booklet to his book "The Tornado":

"In my opinion, if there ever was a potential F6 caught on video, it was the Pampa, TX tornado of 1995 [...] My own photogrammetry of the [Gray County sheriff's] video indicates that, about 100 feet above the ground, the funnel was rotating at about 300 miles per hour, as it lifted automobiles and trucks and threw them out like toys [...] Despite its lower rating [F4], it's my pick for the most intense."

It's definitely a classic pre-EF scale tornado that, because it didn't hit any frame homes at peak strength, was probably rated lower than it might have been otherwise.

**R E P L Y**



**Georgy Pobedonosny says:**

A P R 1  
2 0 1 6

Moore will finish with +2

**R E P L Y**



**Fake Mike Morgan says:**

A P R 1  
2 0 1 6

Uh...OU did make it to the Final Four, they just happened to ran into the Golden State, I mean Villanova Wildcats. May want to rewrite that one. Interesting conection between Andover and May 3rd, Andover: the tornado that made you think underpasses were a good place to hide. May 3rd: the tornado that made you think underpasses are a stupid place to hide.

**R E P L Y**





Aaron says:

A P R

2 0 1 6

DANGIT !!! I totally messed up there. You're right, I'll just go an cry now

R E P L Y



Enter your comment here...

R E C E N T P O S T S



T O R N A D O C L I M A T O L O G Y

s... a la...  
ible

0 C O M M E N T S



T O R N A D O C L I M A T O L O G Y

top... solve  
of et

2 C O M M E N T S



T O R N A D O H I S T O R Y

ngi r\$  
et fo

7 C O M M E N T S



live

T O R N A D O S E A S O N A L O U T

1 C O M M E N T



related  
traits

T O R N A D O H I S T O R Y

0 C O M M E N T S

R E C E N T T W E E T

Tweets by @USTornadoes

I N F O C U S

Select Category



M O S T R E A D T O I

[Tornado Tracking](#)

[The month with the most tornadoes by county](#)

[North Carolina's largest tornado outbreak - April 16, 2011](#)

[Spring 2016 seasonal tornado outlook](#)

[Monthly tornado averages by state and region](#)

[April 2016 tornado outlook](#)

[Understanding basic tornadic radar signatures](#)

[The Tri-State Tornado of 1925](#)

[The May 22, 2011 Joplin, Missouri EF5 tornado](#)

[From domestic to international: Tornadoes around the world](#)

