



Spring madness: The most extreme tornadoes of the 1990s (Championship)

M A R C H 2 4 , S . I T N O R N A D O
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, April 14, April 18, and April 21.



Lazbuddie, Texas during May 1991 (YouTube)

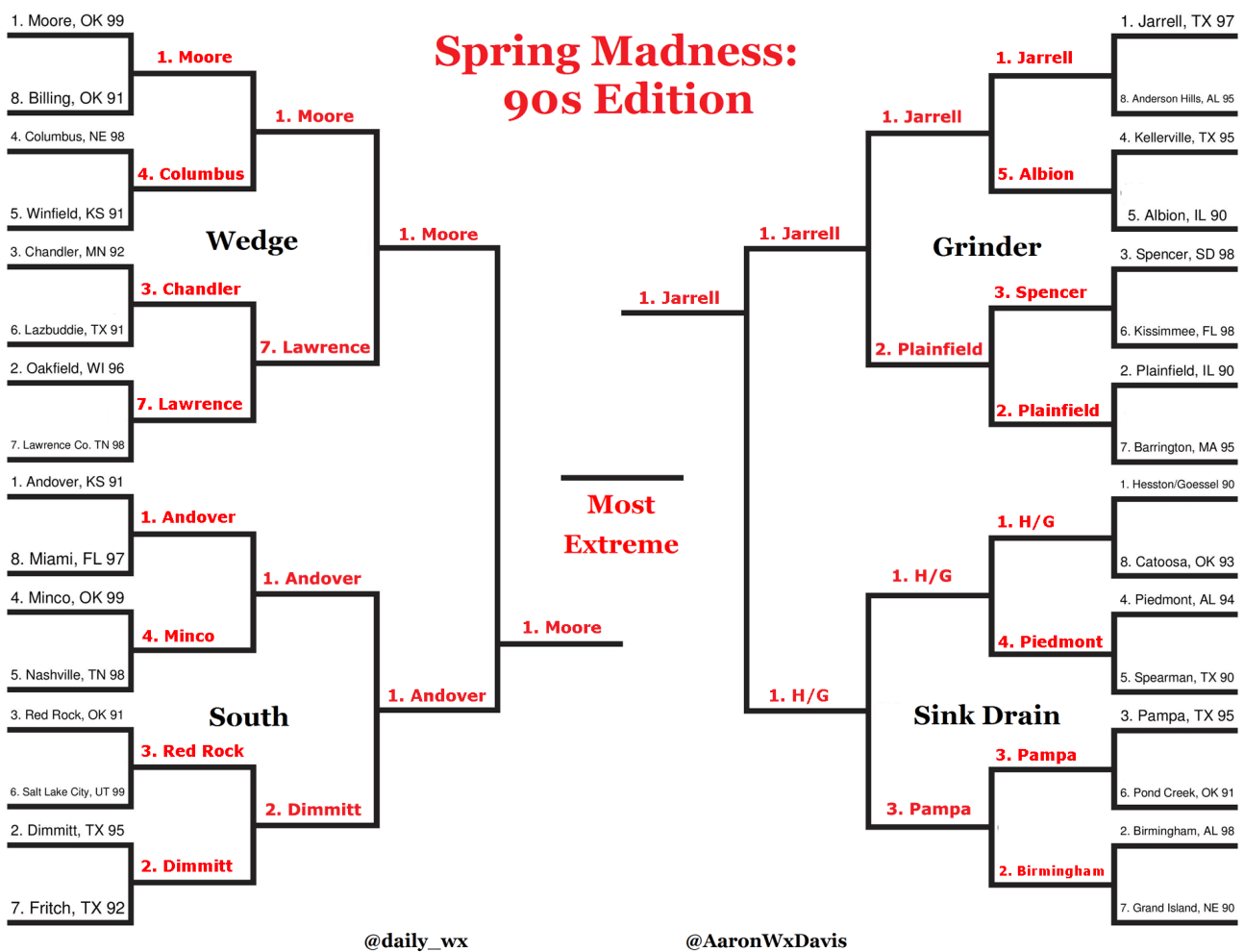
by *Aaron Davis and Mitch Feiler*

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~~



This is it. The moment we've all been waiting for. Spring Madness has come down to all but two of the most extreme tornadoes of the 1990s. Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached the championship game.

#1 Moore, OK 99 VS. #1 Jarrell, TX 97

What can we say about **Moore** that hasn't already been said? We know that this billion dollar tornado spawned a generation of meteorologists and weather lovers largely thanks to its jaw dropping video, size, and damage. We also know that this tornado had one of the most intense wind speeds ever recorded with 300+ mph measured by a mobile Doppler on wheels. (One thing to note, those winds were measured aloft, and not directly at the surface.) Moore '99 was truly a one of a kind tornado, and it reflects that by being one of the last two standing.

Strength: F5

Winds: 300+ MPH

Damage: \$1 billion USD

Jarrell is clearly deserving of being one of the final two tornadoes remaining, and much like Moore, it is certainly deserving of being crowned most extreme. This tornado was so powerful it produced ground scouring up to a depth of 18 inches, and it completely removed asphalt from roads. Anything that got in its way was completely and utterly destroyed. Some tornadoes remove a home from its foundation, the Jarrell tornado not only removed homes but took them with it. Many houses were not just destroyed, but nowhere to be found. There is one photo that can describe this tornado the best. It is the same photo that gave this tornado its nickname, “the dead man walking.” (see link below)

Strength: F5

Winds: 261+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$40+ million USD

Other video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc101d_7HPU

Photo: <http://lssn.us/image/JARREL~1.png>

VOTING HAS ENDED. WINNER ANNOUNCED SOON!



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)

Round 4 (4 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_4fAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Bv8EAAAAIBAJ&pg=5148,4487056&hl=en](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1906&dat=19900410&id=b_4fAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Bv8EAAAAIBAJ&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.*



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.

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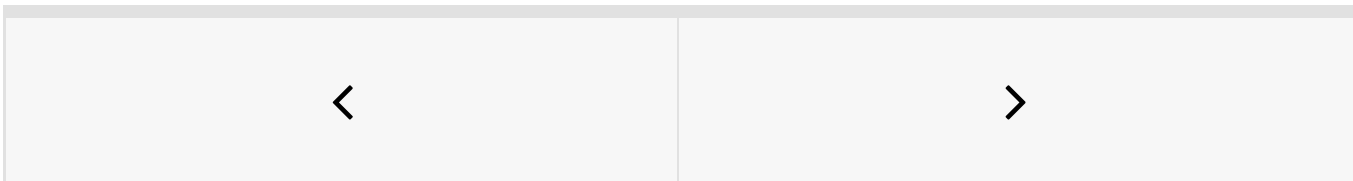


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9 T H O U G H T S O N



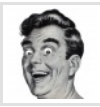
Chris Tipton says:

M A R

2

Very cool

R E P L Y



KoHoSo says:

A P R
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. T he 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. T hey're an amazing sight to behold in addition to being quite terrible at times.

R E P L Y



Shay says:

A P R
2 0 1 6

I completely understand. I live in Jarrell now, and I am a HUGE weather *geek*. I run a fb page just for the Jarrell Area and believe add a disclaimer to my topic relative to the May 07 tornado. I get this I want to

Jarrell Area and I always add a disclaimer to any topic relating to the May 9 / tornado. Last thing I want to do is bring up video, pictures or discussion that may hurt members in our community. One of our teachers wentire through it, and a few weeks or so ago we had a tornado warning. My daughter was in her class, and she stayed calm, helped distract them, and treated them exactly how I would treat my own children. She will always have a special place in my heart because of it. ♡♡

R E P L Y



tatsumaki416 says:

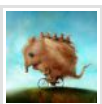
A P R 0
2 0 1 6

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



angela judge wedgeworth says:

A P R 2
2 0 1 6

As I am an avid weather geek, tornado lover, my daughter in law was in the Parkersburg, Iowa E5 tornado on May 25, 2008. The house she was in, was flattened. We both respect each other and our feelings about weather- we are cool!

R E P L Y



Enter your comment here...

R E C E N T P O S T S

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and

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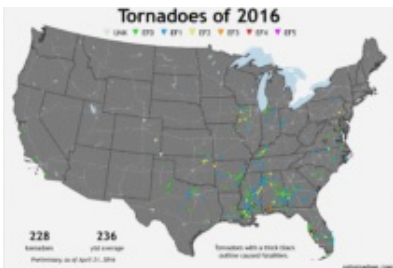
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R E C E N T T W E E T

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