



# Spring madness: The most extreme tornadoes of the 1990s (Round 3)

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 and April 7.



*Lazbuddie, Texas during May 1991 (YouTube)*

by *Aaron Davis and Mitch Feiler*

**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

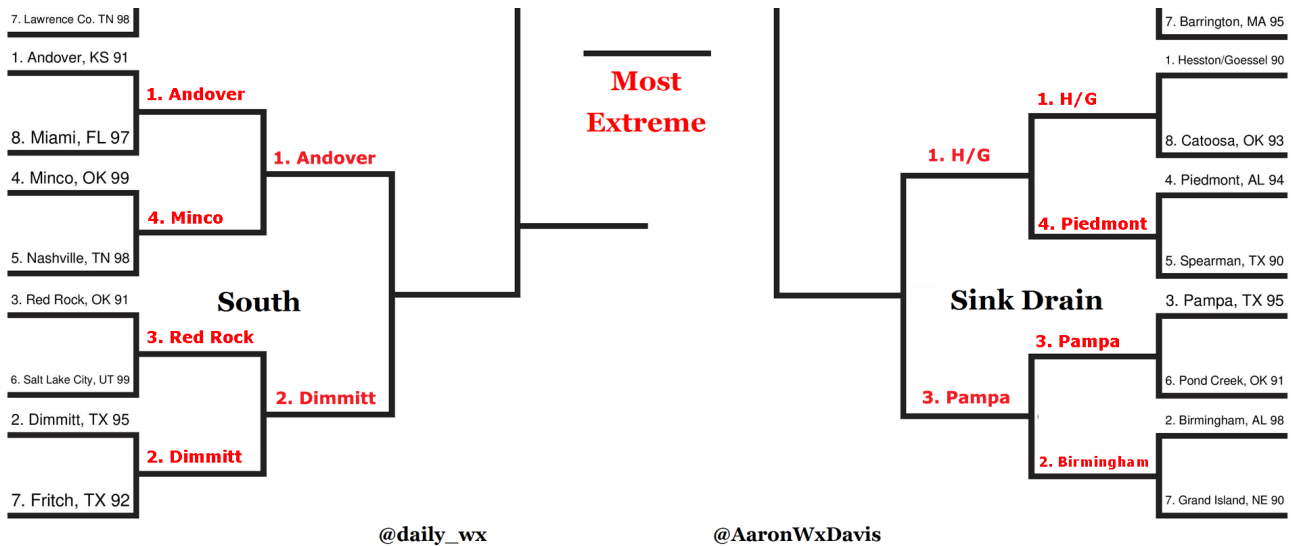
In honor of March Madness, we are proud to introduce *Spring Madness: 90s edition*.

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



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## #1 Moore, OK 99 VS. #7 Lawrence Co. TN, 98

**Moore** is moving on like a freight train, beating each of its last two opponents by a large margin. Moore has its eyes set on the championship, but it has three more matchups to go before it can be crowned “most extreme.” It’s truly no surprise Moore has gotten this far, but the elite eight and beyond will get much, much harder on this May 3rd monster.

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)

On the other side of the court, we have the lowest remaining seed in the bracket. No one expected the **Lawrence County** tornado to make it out of the first round, let alone the elite eight, and yet here it is. Lawrence County had been in some close matchups, and will look to continue this trend into this week. We’ll see if the powerful wood chucking ground scourer of Lawrence County can hold its own against the May 3rd monster.

Strength: F5

Winds: 260+ MPH estimated

Damage: Unknown

**Lawrenceville Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8csvBQ8Fr4U> (we can’t confirm this is the tornado in question, but it seems to be!)

## #1 Moore, OK 99 VS. #7 Lawrence Co. TN, 98

#1 Moore, OK 99 (97%, 57 Votes)



#7 Lawrence Co. TN, 98 (3%, 2 Votes)



Total Voters: 59

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## #1 Andover, KS 91 VS #2 Dimmitt, TX 95

**Andover** just keeps winning, and by very large margins. Round one was a breeze, and I expected round two to be a little harder: nope. Andover is proving it can win, and it continues to do so. The most famous tornado of the April, 1991 outbreak is showing everyone why it deserves that title. Not even Air Force bases can stand in its way as it continues its march to the title of most extreme.

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>

If Andover wishes to continue that march, it will have to get past the Dimmitt tornado.

**Dimmitt** won in a very close call against the Red Rock storm, and it will take all it has for this panhandle magic twister to make it out of this match up. Red Rock is in a completely different category from the Andover storm, and it gave Dimmitt all it could handle. Look for Dimmitt to give its all this round, and who knows, it may be able to overcome the odds and move on to the final four.

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

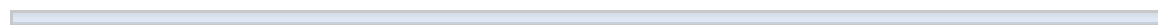
Damage: Unknown

## Dimmitt Video:

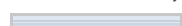
1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vw6iUXnef8>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJNr3J2Q5Cg>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHclVX27tRo>

### #1 Andover, KS 91 VS #2 Dimmitt, TX 95

#1 Andover, KS (87%, 52 Votes)



#2 Dimmitt, TX 95 (13%, 8 Votes)



Total Voters: 60

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## #1 Jarrell, TX 97 VS. #2 Plainfield, IL 90

**Jarrell** just keeps dominating the competition. It has won in blow outs the last two games, but I sense those blow outs stop here. I've been hoping Jarrell and Plainfield would cross paths, since in many ways, they are almost identical tornadoes. From the mega extreme high CAPE, low shear events, to the fact that many people didn't expect either to happen. Look for Jarrell to give its all this round.

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)

Again, much like Jarrell, many people counted out the **Plainfield** tornado, and it has gone down

as one of the most remembered and powerful storms of the 1990's. This matchup is going to be beyond exciting to watch: a number one and two seed going at it with similar stories. However, only one of them will come out at the winner and move on to the next round. Does Plainfield have what it takes to do that?

Strength: F5

Winds: 261+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$140 million USD

**Plainfield Video:** None. Due to the highly HP nature of this storm, and the rate in which it grew, there are no known photos or video in existence.

### #1 Jarrell, TX 97 VS. #2 Plainfield, IL 90

#1 Jarrell, TX 97 (72%, 42 Votes)



#2 Plainfield, IL 90 (28%, 16 Votes)



Total Voters: **58**

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### #1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90 VS #3 Pampa, TX 95

This is the matchup that I've been waiting for, since these are easily two of my favorite tornadoes of all time. The number ones seeds just keep winning, and for good reason. **H/G** is just a force of a storm. I've heard it called an F5 handoff, and another person describe it as an F5 eating another F5. Whatever you want to call it, there's no denying that the H/G storm producing TWO F5's is an absolute astonishment. However, H/G may be in for a surprise.

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)

#TeamPampa lives on, and it's following keeps getting stronger. I was amazed to meet so many people this past week who are running the **Pampa** train full steam ahead. It's truly hard to argue against Pampa. It was part of the magical Texas Panhandle season of 1995 that many chasers to this day hold as one of the greatest weeks of storm chasing of all time. The debris, the contrast, and an appearance from Chuck Doswell and Al Moller make the Pampa video one for the ages. With that being said, Pampa knows things are about to get much harder. If it really wants to prove its worth, it's going to have to overcome some of the best tornadoes of the 1900's

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$70 Million USD

Damage: \$50 Million USD

**Pampa Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaFgUzTlFi0> (I never get tired of Texas accents)

### #1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90 VS #3 Pampa, TX 95

#1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90 (51%, 30 Votes)



#3 Pampa, TX 95 (49%, 29 Votes)



Total Voters: 59

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*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)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*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.*

**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.



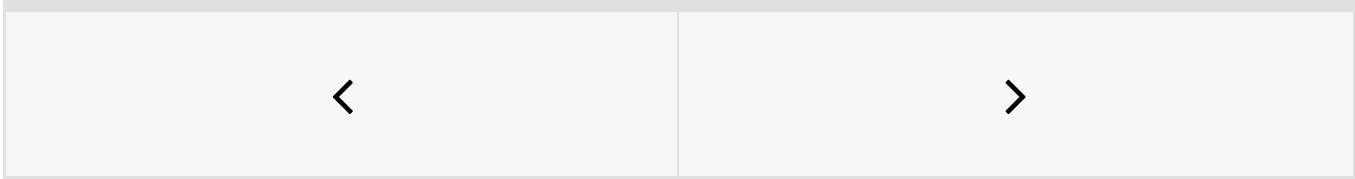


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4 T H O U G H T S O N

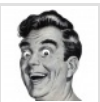


Chris Tipton says:

M A R 2  
2 0 1 6

Very cool

R E P L Y



KoHoSo says:

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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

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**



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