



Spring madness: The most extreme tornadoes of the 1990s (Round 1)

M A R 2 U . 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



Lazbuddie, Texas during May 1991 (YouTube)

by [Aaron Davis](#) and [Mitch Feiler](#)

Editor's note: While this post is intended to be entertaining/educational, there is nothing fun about a tornado that cleaves into population. Sadly, many of these events killed people or otherwise destroyed

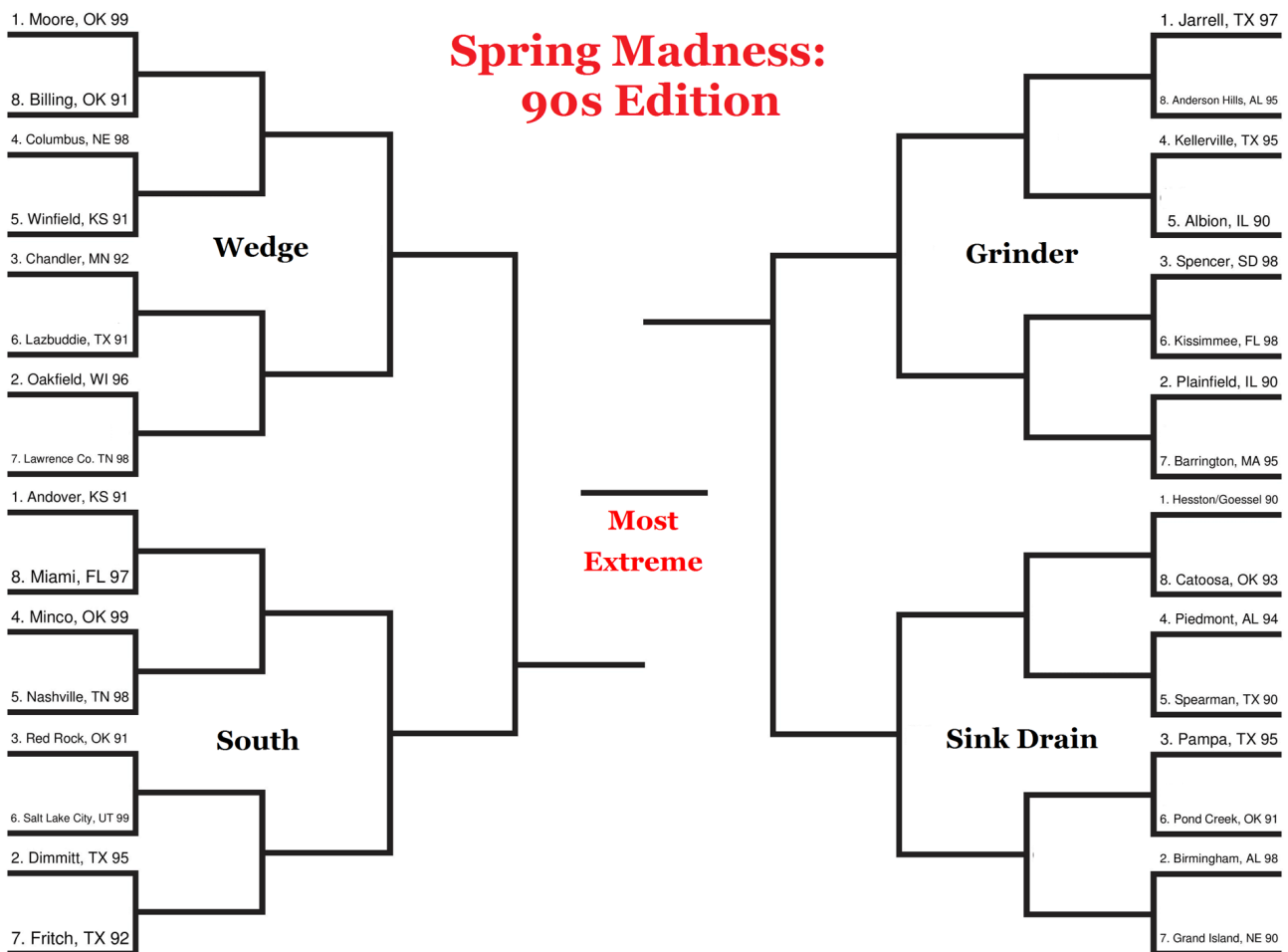
tornado that slams into population. Sadly, many of these events killed people or otherwise destroyed lives. At the same time, as always, we believe being as informed as possible about tornadoes – including their history, and this is a great look at 1990s history – helps to keep people safer.

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](#).



@daily_wx

@AaronWxDavis

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



#1 Moore, OK 99 VS. #8 Billings, OK 91

There is no question that the undisputed number one seed tornado in Moore (1999) will be a force to be reckon with this year, but it will have to overcome some very notable match-ups before it can call itself a champion.

If you know weather, you know about the **Moore (1999)** tornado. This historic tornado can claim responsibility for producing a whole new generation of meteorologists given its raw power and humbling statistics. This tornado formed as part of the May 3, 1999 outbreak, and quickly became the most powerful and memorable tornado in recent memory. This tornado tore into Moore, devastating many parts of the city. It's a twister that no opposing tornado will want to

Trace in this bracket.

Strength: F5

Winds: 300+ MPH

Damage: \$1 billion USD

Moore Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG1z_llxOFo (Sorry for the documentary link)

In the first match-up, Moore (1999) will take on one of the many tornadoes produced during the extremely famous 4/26/91 plains outbreak. While the **Billings** tornado isn't the most famous tornado to come from the April, 1991 event, it certainly isn't one to sleep on. This gorgeous stovepipe tornado would quickly wedge out, and stay on the ground for a while. It would also produce the highest recorded wind speeds at the time. Only to have that record broken by its current opponent

Strength: F4

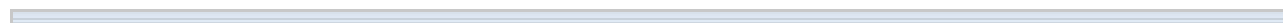
Winds: 260+ MPH

Damage: Unknown

Billings Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eppc-4pTNAA>

#1 Moore, OK 99 VS. #8 Billings, OK 91

#1 Moore, OK 99 (96%, 172 Votes)



#8 Billings, OK 91 (4%, 7 Votes)



Total Voters: **179**

#4 Columbus, NE 98 VS. #5 Winfield, KS 91

In this battle of the mega-wedges, we have two visually STUNNING tornadoes.

What we really admire about the **Columbus** tornado is the size of the mesocyclone. The whole thing appears to be in contact with the ground: likewise, the size of the hail associated with this monster tornado was something else. Now, much like its opponent, the Columbus tornado has a disputed rating. The tornado went through multiple cycles, and had only a few damage indicators. So the true strength of this beautiful piece of nature, much like the Winfield tornado, may not ever be known.

Strength: F2 (disputed)

Winds: 113+ MPH

Damage: Unknown

Columbus Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNOLL5tWxTg>

Both of the tornadoes in this match-up occurred in very rural areas, so both of them have very contested ratings since they didn't cause major damage over large areas. Many people who witnessed the **Winfield** tornado say that had it not occurred in such a rural area, it could have

easily been the most notable tornado of the April 1991 outbreak: even more notable than the Andover tornado.

Strength: F4 or F5 (disputed)

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: Unknown

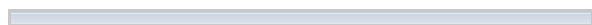
Winfield Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVpyLKJVmjs>

#4 Columbus, NE 98 VS. #5 Winfield, KS 91

#4 Columbus, NE 98 (56%, 89 Votes)



#5 Winfield, KS 91 (44%, 69 Votes)



Total Voters: **158**

#3 Chandler, MN 92 VS #6 Lazbuddie, TX 91

We find this match-up rather intriguing. In one corner you have a massive F5 that is often forgotten when talking about large, destructive tornadoes. In the other corner, you have a tornadic event that produced some of the stunning home video ever captured, complete with multiple tornadoes at once, and the video is full of thick Texas accents.

The **Chandler** tornado was part of the historic June outbreak of 1992. Over a period of four days, 170 tornadoes were spawned in various parts of the Midwest. The Chandler tornado formed rapidly and within twenty minutes it reached its peak intensity.

Strength: F5

Winds: 260+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$50 million USD

Chandler Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byXvqMHHxIU>

The **Lazbuddie** event is a completely different story. These tornadoes spawned during an isolated incident, as opposed to a large outbreak. The tornadoes happened in such a rural area, that it's difficult to even find information on the event. However, we wouldn't count Lazbuddie out just yet. Many people regard this home video as some of their favorite ever captured.

Strength: F2

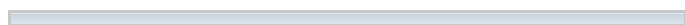
Winds: 113+ MPH estimated

Damage: None???

Lazbuddie Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ0rOXM_ArE

#3 Chandler, MN 92 VS. #6 Lazbuddie, TX 91

#3 Chandler, MN 92 (51%, 80 Votes)



#6 Lazbuddie, TX 91 (49%, 77 Votes)

Total Voters: **157**

#2 Oakfield, WI 96 VS. #7 Lawrence Co. TN 98

A Wisconsin tornado facing a forgotten tornado: who could ask for a better match-up?

The **Oakfield** tornado is the product of a Wisconsin-only event that produced twelve tornadoes, and countless other non-tornadic severe weather related events. The tornado developed and quickly grew in strength while approaching the town of Oakfield. The tornado would destroy 14 percent of the town's homes, sweeping many off their foundation, and heavily damaging another 15 percent.

Strength: F5

Winds: 260+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$40 million USD

Oakfield Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH7RI527PhU>

As for the opponent of the Oakfield tornado, we find what is often referred to as the **forgotten tornado of Lawrence County**. This massive storm was part of the April 1998 outbreak affecting many southern states. While this event is most commonly known for the downtown Nashville tornado, this one could have easily been as memorable. This beast spawned from a massive discrete supercell in a relatively unpopulated area. However, the damage it did cause was extensive. Unfortunately, there were multiple reports of homes being swept from their foundation, trees being debarked, and in a few isolated areas, ground scouring and grass being torn out of the ground. This should be a very interesting match-up.

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!)

#2 Oakfield, WI 96 VS. #7 Lawrence Co. TN 98

#7 Lawrence Co. TN 98 (60%, 91 Votes)

#2 Oakfield, WI 96 (40%, 61 Votes)

Total Voters: **152**

#1 Andover, KS 91 VS #8 Miami, FL 97

You'd be hard pressed to find an event that produced more memorable home video than the April 1991 tornado outbreak. Much of the home video from that day has made it into numerous

April, 1971 Tornado outbreak. Much of the home video from that day has made it into numerous tornado collection videos and documentaries. The Andover tornado is no different. As for its opponent, the Miami tornado is interesting because the tornado formed on land, moved over water, and then moved back to land.

The **Andover** tornado is so notable not only because of its long lived and destructive nature, but also because it was one of the most video recorded F5 tornadoes ever. Multiple cameras and angles captured this tornado as it tore through McConnell air force base, and eventually made its way into Andover where the city suffered heavy damage. It's really hard to set up this tornado, because truthfully the tornado does the talking.

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>

The **Miami** tornado on the other hand was relatively weak, and didn't cause that much damage. However, what makes the Miami tornado unique is that it was captured live on many downtown sky cameras, and proved to be a very hot news topic in the following days. Then of course there's that land to water to land thing mentioned earlier.

Strength: F1

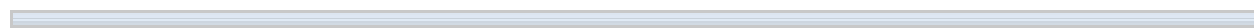
Winds: 75+ MPH estimated

Damage: ~\$525,000

Miami Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSHp7d6yozY>

#1 Andover, KS 91 VS #8 Miami, FL 97

#1 Andover, KS 91 (94%, 142 Votes)



#8 Miami, FL 97 (6%, 9 Votes)



Total Voters: **151**

#4 Minco, OK 99 VS. #5 Nashville, TN 98

A tornado spawned in a major outbreak, and a tornado that hit a major city not named Moore. This match-up has it all.

The **Minco** tornado may be the strongest, or second strongest, tornado of the May 3, 1999 outbreak, depending on who you're talking to. While the Moore F5 got the most media coverage that day, the Minco tornado is also a piece of May 3 history. A Doppler on Wheels measured a

circulation containing winds approaching 100 mph covering a four mile wide path: making it the largest tornado to ever be quantitatively measured. The tornado went through multiple towns, destroying large pieces of property in the process.

Strength: F4 (disputed F5 by many witnesses to its violent nature)

Winds: 210+ MPH Estimated

Damage: Unkown

Minco Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvyr5LLjr8>

The **Nashville** tornado on the other hand is notable for many other reasons: one being the large circulation of the tornado, and the other being the rain-wrapped nature of the entire event. The tornado was born just outside of the city, and made its way directly into downtown Nashville. At the time, the city had no sirens in place to warn the residents of the approaching tornado, and many people can be seen walking the streets as it approaches. Most of the video from that day comes from local reporters who were keen on that day's weather conditions.

Strength: F3

Winds: 160+ MPH Estimated

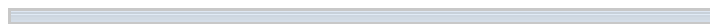
Damage: ~\$100 million USD

Nashville Videos:

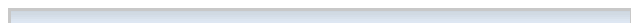
1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYC4bAaU-ik>
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldjm_mh2P0g

#4 Minco, OK 99 VS. #5 Nashville, TN 98

#4 Minco, OK 99 (53%, 72 Votes)



#5 Nashville, TN 98 (47%, 65 Votes)



Total Voters: **137**

#3 Red Rock, OK 91 VS. #6 Salt Lake City, UT 99

Do you sense a pattern yet with these 1991 tornadoes? If not, we'll fill you in: The Red Rock tornado is another product of the April 26, 1991 outbreak. If all these tornadoes were basketball players, then the April 1991 outbreak would be the University of Kentucky.

The **Red Rock** tornado isn't known for its destructive nature like the Andover tornado is. Instead, the Red Rock tornado is famous because it was thoroughly documented by severe storm researchers, including a team from the University of Oklahoma armed with a mobile Doppler on Wheels. This powerhouse of a tornado was on the ground for an hour and a half, and 65+ miles: making it one of the longest tornado paths documented in Oklahoma.

Strength: F4

Winds: 270 MPH

Damage: Unknown

Red Rock Videos:

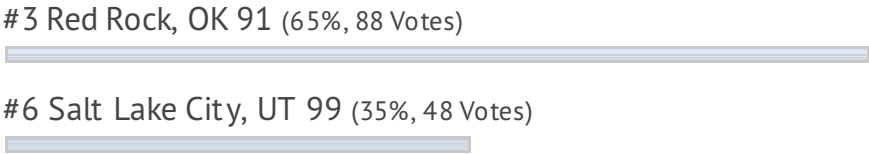
- 1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoXjHFler9w>
- 2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zUJJH_MSZI
- 3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf90f57PtZQ>

So who could compete with this monster? That’s easy. How about a tornado no one even expected to happen? Let alone in a major populated city. The **Salt Lake City** tornado of 1999 really is a rare event. Not only because the conditions that day weren’t too conducive for tornadoes around the city, or *ever* really conducive for tornadoes in that state, but also because it was the only tornado report of the day. Believe it or not, this tornado went on to be the most destructive in Utah’s history. While only on the ground for 10 minutes, it was able to destroy countless houses, trees, and various other objects. It also famously put to rest the old (false) myth that tornadoes cannot strike cities downtown.

Strength: F2
 Winds: 113+ MPH estimated
 Damage: \$170+ Million USD

Salt Lake City Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80DnMx8ER3Y>

#3 Red Rock, OK 91 VS. #6 Salt Lake City, UT 99



Total Voters: **136**

#2 Dimmitt, TX 95 VS. #7 Fritch, TX 92

If tornadoes could be a basketball team, the Dimmitt tornado would be the 1995 Chicago bulls. Not necessarily because it will win this bracket, but because of how well known this tornado is within the weather community. You could show a photo of this tornado to any weather junkie, and they’d be able to tell you what it is. Coincidentally, the Dimmitt tornado happened to occur in 1995. I’m not saying there’s a correlation between large Texas tornadoes and the Bulls destroying the NBA, but...

Scientifically, the **Dimmitt** tornado was the most studied in history at its time. During this day, multiple VORTEX teams were deployed in the area, and were able to capture and study all sorts of scientific info from this gorgeous stovepipe. Photos, video, and even probe information were all captured during the life cycle of this awesome tornado.

Strength: F4
 Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

WINDS: 200+ 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=vHcIVX27tRo>

The **Fritch** tornado, on the other hand, is well known for some of home video captured of it. The supercell that moved through Fritch produced a total of three tornadoes, with the largest of the three producing F4 damage. The tornado was captured from multiple different angles, with the most famous being shot by someone standing in the door of his mobile home (Video two)

Strength: F4

Winds: 200+ MPH estimated

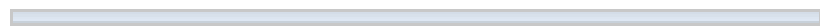
Damage: Unknown

Fritch Video:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo7c56Bl4e4>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5QfMFlpw54>

#2 Dimmitt, TX 95 VS. #7 Fritch, TX 92

#2 Dimmitt, TX 95 (61%, 83 Votes)



#7 Fritch, TX 92 (39%, 53 Votes)



Total Voters: **136**

#1 Jarrell, TX 97 VS #8 Anderson Hills, AL 95

Two large tornadoes that destroyed subdivisions are meeting in this match-up, but we do not see an upset happening here.

Jarrell is an undisputed number one seed, and not only because of its destructive F5 nature. The Jarrell tornado formed in rather peculiar circumstances. It wasn't a passing front, or even a dryline, that created this tornado. It was actually just a local boundary left over from an MCS that caused the storms to fire. Jarrell was also unique since it formed in a high CAPE, low shear day. There was copious amounts of energy in the atmosphere for these storms to tap into, but not a lot of spin to get the tornadoes going. Partly due to its peculiar southwest movement, the Jarrell storm overcame this obstacle to become one of the most intense tornadoes of the 1990s. Unfortunately, the entire subdivision of Double Creek Estates was completely leveled, and the tornado produced some of the most intense ground scouring ever recorded.

Strength: F5

Winds: 200+ MPH estimated

Winds: 261+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$40+ million USD

Jarrell Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc1O1d_7HPU

The **Anderson Hills** tornado is also known for destroying a subdivision, and today is aptly named for the one it destroyed. The tornado formed just outside of Athens, and quickly began its path of destruction. As the tornado tore into the Anderson Hills area, it was peaking at F4 strength. Many of the homes there were destroyed, causing close to \$1.5 billion in damage.

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: ~\$1.5 billion USD

Anderson Hills Video: None

#1 Jarrell, TX 97 VS #8 Anderson Hills, AL 95

#1 Jarrell, TX 97 (98%, 130 Votes)



#8 Anderson Hills, AL 95 (2%, 2 Votes)



Total Voters: **132**

#4 Kellerville, TX 95 VS. #5 Albion, IL 90

Typically when discussing June 8, 1995, people often go straight to the Pampa tornado. However, the Kellerville tornado was not only much, much, MUCH larger, but potentially more powerful. The Albion tornado on the other hand is often seen, but forgotten. We had seen countless images, video, and poster images of the tornado, but honestly never knew the exact name before starting this bracket. This match-up is poised to go down to the wire.

Again, the **Kellerville** tornado is from the same day as the infamous Pampa tornado, so it is often forgotten when talking about June 8, but it really shouldn't be. This multi-vortex tornado went on to become a mile wide, and produced large areas of F4 damage. However, in an interesting twist, it has been reported that a VORTEX team found multiple areas of F5 damage that the NWS missed, but the F4 rating has stood.

Strength: F4 (disputed)

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: Unknown

Kellerville Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJp2TVEM2vI> (It's a wweeeddddgggggeeee)

The **Albion** tornado was part of the June, 1990 Ohio Valley tornado outbreak. The tornado was actually one of the earliest of the day, occurring before it turned into an overnight event. This extremely long tracked tornado did damage in both Indiana and Illinois. It's rather memorable for the horizontal vortices the tornado produces throughout its life cycle

THE HORIZONTAL VERTICES THE TORNADO PRODUCES THROUGHOUT ITS LIFE CYCLE.

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH Estimated

Damage: \$10 million USD

Albion Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUq7TTRXDSc>

#4 Kellerville, TX 95 VS. #5 Albion, IL 90

#5 Albion, IL 90 (57%, 67 Votes)



#4 Kellerville, TX (43%, 50 Votes)



Total Voters: **117**

#3 Spencer, SD 98 VS #6 Kissimmee, FL 98

This will be a match-up to watch going forward. One of us (Aaron) must admit that there's a "soft spot" for the Spencer tornado, as it was the foundation of a large presentation in school. Plus, it was part of a tornado family that spawned eight of the total eighteen tornadoes that day. The Kissimmee tornado on the other hand was part of an outbreak that is still the deadliest in Florida's history.

Many people remember the late May, 1998 severe weather event for its large, powerful derecho that blasted parts of the Midwest with 100+ mph winds. However, it is the **Spencer** tornado that makes the number three seed here. Many forecasts for this day called for an outbreak. However, out of the 18 tornadoes to form, Spencer was the only strong one of the day. This tornado literally changed the town forever as it destroyed most of the buildings there. Many people didn't even bother to rebuild, causing the population of the town to decrease in the time after the event.

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH Estimated

Damage: \$18 million USD

Spencer Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yaz-gFKHcl>

The **Kissimmee** tornado, part of the same-name outbreak that was the deadliest and most destructive in Florida history, was part of a nighttime nightmare for the region. This outbreak also happened to occur during a strong El Niño year. The tornado formed only eight miles southeast of Disney World before trekking straight into Kissimmee. The tornado was originally given an F4 rating, but was downgraded to F3+ (high end F3).

Strength: F3

Winds: 158+ MPH Estimated

Damage: \$55 million USD

Kissimmee Video: None

#3 Spencer, SD 98 VS #6 Kissimmee, FL 98

#3 Spencer, SD 98 (79%, 91 Votes)



#6 Kissimmee, FL 98 (21%, 24 Votes)



Total Voters: **115**

#2 Plainfield, IL 90 VS. #7 Great Barrington, MA 95

Two odd tornadoes going head-to-head, but only one can come out on top. The Plainfield tornado was a massive tornado that devastated parts of the Chicago suburb. The Great Barrington tornado also ravaged the area it hit. Both tornadoes are considered oddities for various reasons, ranging from time of year to location.

The **Plainfield** tornado is another one of those anomalies. It, much like the Jarrell tornado in this bracket, formed in an area of extreme instability, but little shear. CAPE values at the time of the storm were approaching 8000 J/KG, and dew points were in the upper 70s. The tornado formed from a weak cold front. It soon exploded. The tornado tore into the city of Plainfield, destroying most everything in its path. The tornado caught many people off guard, and the first warning wasn't issued until ten minutes into the event.

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.

The **Great Barrington** tornado formed out of a cluster of thunderstorms on Memorial Day. The tornado occurred later in the evening, and only traveled a distance of 12 miles before dissipating. Even though the funnel was on the ground for a short time, it caused F3 and F4 damage in some places, including throwing a car over 1000 feet from its original location.

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$24 million USD

Great Barrington Video: None

#2 Plainfield, IL 90 VS. #7 Great Barrington, MA 95

#2 Plainfield, IL 90 (94%, 111 Votes)



#7 Great Barrington, MA 95 (6%, 7 Votes)



Total Voters: **118**

#1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90 VS. #8 Catoosa, OK 93

Much like sportscasters, this might be a favorite in this bracket. One of us (Aaron) LOVES the Hesston/Goessel tornadoes. We decided on this pair's number one seeding, and rightfully so. This supercell produced multiple tornadoes on the ground at once, both of which reached F5 strength.

The **Hesston/Goessel** tornadoes were part of the larger March 1990 plains outbreak that produced a total of 64 tornadoes. Wait though, two tornadoes? Shouldn't this be two different events? Well, it could, but here's why it isn't: The Hesston tornado was the first to touch down, reaching powerful F5 strength. During this tornado, the Goessel tornado formed, eventually merging with the weakening Hesston tornado. The Goessel tornado then became an F5 itself. So while they technically are two tornadoes, they are one continuation of a single path: which is why many people put them together when talking about the pair. The NWS described the damage at Goessel as "extreme F5." Many meteorologists believed it was the strongest recorded ever tornado at the time.

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=PsLT4_HwPiM

The **Catoosa** tornado formed in a local Oklahoma outbreak, and churned across the countryside before crossing over interstate 44 and into a truck stop. Trucks were mangled and destroyed, and the stop was devastated. It is said that the reason the truck stop sustained so much damage is because a second tornado formed right over the truck stop soon after the first one passed through. The tornado then turned to Catoosa, where an estimated 75 percent of the town's businesses were destroyed.

Strength: F4

Winds 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: Unknown

Catoosa Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltt4e5ww31A> (Not confirmed, but believed to be video of the Catoosa tornado)

#1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90 VS. #8 Catoosa, OK 93

#1 Hesston/Goessel, KS 90 (96%, 113 Votes)

#8 Catoosa, OK 93 (4%, 5 Votes)

Total Voters: **118**

#4 Piedmont, AL 94 VS #5 Spearman, TX 90

From a fascinating home video, to a terrifying still photo, this is the tale of two very different tornadoes.

The **Piedmont** tornado was part of the Palm Sunday 1994 outbreak. What makes this tornado particularly infamous is that it directly hit a church full of people. The tornado completely leveled the church, tragically killing twenty. The supercell that spawned this tornado was the longest lived of the event, tracking 200 miles from Alabama to South Carolina.

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: Unknown

Piedmont Video: No video exists of the Piedmont tornado. However, there is a very frightening photo that can be found online

Piedmont's competitor, on the other hand, wasn't that destructive at all. As for amazing tornadoes, the **Spearman** storm might take the cake, or at least deserves a piece of the cake. While much of the home video taken from this day was up close and personal, Howard Bluestein from the University of Oklahoma has an amazing photo of this storm from a distance. The structure is amazing, with the cone tornado being the cherry on top. The tornado weakened as it entered into downtown Spearman, so the damage level was kept low

Strength: F2

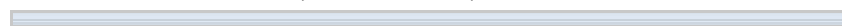
Winds: 40+ MPH

Damage: \$500,000

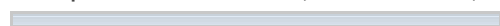
Spearman Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH5D7VEluao>

#4 Piedmont, AL 94 VS #5 Spearman, TX 90

#4 Piedmont, AL 94 (63%, 73 Votes)



#5 Spearman, TX 90 (37%, 43 Votes)



Total Voters: **116**

#3 Pampa, TX 95 VS. #6 Pond Creek, OK 91

In this match-up: two very memorable events. The infamous Pampa video comes from the dashboard camera of a local sheriff's deputy, while the Pond Creek video comes thanks to a group from OU out performing research.

The **Pampa** grinder, shredder, or blender (whichever you prefer), is arguably the most famous tornado to come out of the Texas panhandle during the 1990s. Its debris laden video has been featured in countless "tornado classics" and documentary videos, and it's easy to see why. This

unique tornado caused massive damage for its size, creating damage you'd expect to find in a much larger tornado. This tornado could have been a higher than a three seed, so this could easily be the top misplacement in the bracket.

Strength: F4

Winds: 207+ MPH estimated

Damage: \$30 Million USD

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

As previously stated, the best video to come from the **Pond Creek** tornado came from a group of chaser from OU trying to perform scientific study on the storm. This tornado occurred in an isolated area, so we were unable to find too much information regarding this storm. However, it is interesting to watch the tornado cycle in this video. Going through multiple stages, and maybe even what appear to be multiple tornadoes.

Strength: F3

Winds: 158+ MPH estimated

Damage: Unknown

Pond Creek Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROP-ZCVbb_U

#3 Pampa, TX 95 VS. #6 Pond Creek, OK 91

#3 Pampa, TX 95 (82%, 93 Votes)



#6 Pond Creek, OK 91 (18%, 20 Votes)



Total Voters: **113**

#2 Birmingham, AL 98 VS. #7 Grand Island, NE 90

Yet again, here is another match-up featuring a very strong, violent tornado facing another product of the March 13, 1990 outbreak

The **Birmingham** tornado was easily the strongest tornado in the April 6-9, 1998 outbreak. It was part of a supercell that ended up producing three tornadoes, two of which were strong. The tornado plowed into the suburbs of Birmingham, leveling every building and structure in its path. The tornado is reported to have swept countless buildings off of their foundations, and throw cars large distances from their original location.

Strength: F5

Winds: 261+ MPH estimated

Damage: Unknown

Birmingham Video: We couldn't find any video of the actual tornado, so have some James Spann instead. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5xMESViHKs>

As for the **Grand Island** tornado, this product of the same outbreak that produced my favorite tornadoes in this bracket was relatively less destructive. This tornado did however kill a lot of the local cattle, and derail a large train passing through the area.

Strength: F3

Winds: 158+ MPH estimated

Damage: We lost some burgers

Grand Island Video:

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnlVrwkbPeo>
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_f4bhuVUuc

#2 Birmingham, AL 98 VS. #7 Grand Island, NE 90

#2 Birmingham, AL 98 (70%, 82 Votes)



#7 Grand Island, NE 90 (30%, 35 Votes)



Total Voters: **117**



<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)

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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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