

# On the hot seat?

## U-M coaches insist John Navarre is not on an island

ANN ARBOR (AP) — John Navarre was surrounded.

Michigan's quarterback faced pressure from all angles, but Navarre stood tall and strong. The 12th-ranked Wolverines hope he does the same this season when those in his face are defenders, not just reporters.



### U-M PREVIEW

Navarre will be in the spotlight this year following an up-and-down season last year.

He threw nine touchdown passes and just two interceptions in the first six games as Michigan got off to a 5-1 start.

But Navarre threw 10 TDs and 11 interceptions in the last six games, which Michigan split, as the Wolverines finished 8-4 and lost the last two games for the first time since 1984.

Some believe Michigan will not have a successful season — which is measured by double-digit victories and Big Ten championships — if Navarre does not drastically improve his decision-making skills and mobility.

Others think he shouldn't be given another chance, after starting 16 games as a redshirt freshman and sophomore, because junior Spencer Brinton or freshman Matt Gutierrez are more promising.

Navarre may be the No. 1 topic of conversation in Maize and Blue land, but he insists he doesn't notice.

"I just don't look at the stuff or listen to it," Navarre said. "I don't make it available. Why put any added pressure on yourself?"

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said the criticism heaped on Navarre by fans and the media is unfair.

"Just remember, this is not professional football," Carr said. "But when you go through what he's been through, I think it toughens you."

"How many of you have ever been booed? You're 18, 19 years old and you're booed and hear people saying those things? Well, you learn from that. Everybody around here admires him, I can promise you that. They know that a lot of the criticism is unfair. Every time a quarterback throws an interception it does not mean it's his fault."

B.J. Askew agreed.

"We all had a lot of letdowns, but John took all the blame,"

said Askew, who will move from running back to fullback. "John took way more heat than he should have."

Navarre often locked his eyes on Marquise Walker, now a Tampa Bay rookie, last year and it hurt the offense. Navarre said he will be able to throw to second and third options better this year thanks to first-year offensive coordinator Terry Malone and quarterback coach Scot Loeffler.

The 6-foot-6 quarterback believes playing at 228 pounds instead of 246, as he did last year, will help his speed.

"Physically and mentally, I'm a lot better," Navarre said.

Michigan's strength will be its defense, which returns eight starters.

"I'm going to be very disappointed if this is not a very, very good defense," Carr said.

The Wolverines' entire defensive line, highlighted by Shantee Orr, is back along with linebacker Victor Hobson and three defensive backs, led by sophomore cornerback Marlin Jackson, who Carr compared to Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson.

"It's going to look like the '97 defense," said Orr, referring to Michigan's national championship team, which was led by Woodson. "I'm very excited about our defense because I think it's special."

Cornerback Markus Curry, who has a bullet lodged between two vertebrae after being shot at a party in May, has been cleared to play.

Navarre is not the only concern on offense, which returns seven starters.

Carr said Michigan's problems begin on the offensive line. Three starters return from a unit that struggled to replace five starters who went on to start in the NFL last season.

There is also uncertainty about the receivers without Walker, who broke several records last year. Receivers Ronald Bellamy and Calvin Bell caught 12 passes each last year, but will need to do more this fall.

Chris Perry, whose injured left knee hampered him following a promising freshman season, will run behind Askew.

"I'm real hungry to show that last season was a fluke for me and for the team," Perry said.

"I'm not happy with the way I played, and nobody around here will ever be happy with an 8-4 record."



The Associated Press

John Navarre answers questions from members of the press during the Wolverines' annual media day. He has many more to answer during the upcoming season.

### WOLVERINES AT-A-GLANCE

**SCHOOL COLORS:** Maize and Blue

**FOUNDED:** 1817

**ENROLLMENT:** 38,103

**LOCATED:** Ann Arbor, Mich.

**COACH:** Lloyd Carr, 8th season at Michigan, 66-20

**2001 RECORD:** 8-4 (6-2 Big Ten, second)

**LAST BOWL:** 2002 Citrus Bowl, lost to Tennessee 45-17

**STADIUM:** Michigan Stadium (107,501)

**RETURNING STARTERS:** 7 offense, 8 defense

**KEY PLAYERS:** QB John Navarre; RB Chris Perry; FB B.J. Askew; WR Ronald Bellamy; OL Tony Pape; DE Shantee Orr; LB Victor Hobson; CB Marlin Jackson; FS Cato June

**KEY DEPARTURES:** WR Marquise Walker; LB Larry Foote; LB Eric Brackins; P-PK Hayden Epstein

**WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:** "8-4 isn't cutting it here at Michigan. We're not going to have another season like that again." — WR Ronald Bellamy

### 2003 SCHEDULE

date	opponent
Aug. 30	vs. Central Michigan
Sept. 6	vs. Houston
Sept. 13	vs. Notre Dame
Sept. 20	at Oregon
Sept. 27	vs. Indiana
Oct. 4	at Iowa
Oct. 11	at Minnesota
Oct. 18	vs. Illinois
Oct. 25	vs. Purdue
Nov. 1	at Michigan State
Nov. 15	at Northwestern
Nov. 22	vs. Ohio State

### 2002 MICHIGAN SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Sat	Aug. 31	vs. Washington	Noon
Sat	Sept. 7	vs. Western Michigan	12:10 p.m.
Sat	Sept. 14	at Notre Dame	1:30 p.m.
Sat	Sept. 21	vs. Utah	12:10 p.m.
Sat	Sept. 28	at Illinois	TBA
Sat	Oct. 12	vs. Penn State	TBA
Sat	Oct. 19	at Purdue	TBA
Sat	Oct. 26	vs. Iowa (Homecoming)	TBA
Sat	Nov. 2	vs. Michigan State	TBA
Sat	Nov. 9	at Minnesota	6:45 p.m.
Sat	Nov. 16	vs. Wisconsin	TBA
Sat	Nov. 23	at Ohio State	12:15 p.m.

### 2001 STATS

RUSHING			
player	ATT	YDS	TD
B.J. Askew	199	902	10
Chris Perry	129	495	2
Calvin Bell	15	169	3
Walter Cross	34	126	2

RECEIVING			
player	REC	YDS	TD
Marquise Walker	86	1143	11
Bill Seymour	27	279	0
B.J. Askew	26	236	2
Calvin Bell	21	236	1

PASSING					
player	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD
John Navarre	385	207	.538	2435	19
Jermaine Gonzalez	13	7	.538	88	0

DEFENSIVE					
player	SOLO	AST	TOTAL	SACK	FUM
Larry Foote	59	23	82	6	0
Victor Hobson	60	20	80	5	0
Charles Drake	57	10	67	3	0
Cato June	49	9	58	3	1
Eric Brackens	36	19	55	2	1

### 2001 RESULTS

Michigan 31, Miami (Oh.) 13
Washington 23, Michigan 18
Michigan 38, Western Mich. 21
Michigan 45, Illinois 20
Michigan 20, Penn State 0
Michigan 24, Purdue 10
Michigan 32, Iowa 26
Michigan State 26, Michigan 24
Michigan 31, Minnesota 10
Michigan 20, Wisconsin 17
Ohio State 26, Michigan 20
Tennessee 45, Michigan 17*

\*=Citrus Bowl - Orlando, Fla.