

Departures don't change goals

Wolverines must replace two record-breaking players

ANN ARBOR (AP) — When stars leave Michigan, high expectations don't go with them.

The Wolverines must replace two record-breaking players, Chris Perry and John Navarre, but they're still picked to repeat as Big Ten champions and to contend for the national championship.

"It's Michigan," standout receiver Braylon Edwards said. "This is why you come here — because it's big time. Every year, you're under the microscope and you're expected to do well.

"We're still going to play O-State, and we're going to a bowl game. It's just what bowl game are we going to?"

The winningest team in college football history ended last season with a loss to USC at the Rose Bowl, its first trip there since winning the 1997 national championship.

Despite the departure of about 10 key players, Michigan was No. 8 in The Associated Press preseason poll.

"Expectations shouldn't fall off," cornerback Marlin Jackson said. "Our coaches get great athletes with great character every year, so we always have good players."

First, Edwards wants to lead Michigan to its third Big Ten title in five years.

Then — nothing against Pasadena, Calif. — he wants the Wolverines in the Orange Bowl.

"With Miami being the site of the national championship game, that would be lovely to go down there," Edwards said.

The Wolverines will only have a shot at reaching their lofty standards if one of their young quarterbacks emerges as a solid player

While it seems likely Matt Gutierrez will win the job, Lloyd Carr insisted two other quarterbacks — Clayton Richard and Chad Henne — have a shot.

2004 Michigan schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
Sat.	Sept. 4	vs. Miami (Ohio)	Noon
Sat.	Sept. 11	at Notre Dame	2:30 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 18	vs. San Diego State	Noon
Sat.	Sept. 25	vs. Iowa	TBA
Sat.	Oct. 2	at Indiana	TBA
Sat.	Oct. 9	vs. Minnesota (Homecoming)	TBA
Sat.	Oct. 16	at Illinois	TBA
Sat.	Oct. 23	at Purdue	TBA
Sat.	Oct. 30	vs. Michigan State	TBA
Sat.	Nov. 13	vs. Northwestern	TBA
Sat.	Nov. 20	at Ohio State	1 p.m.

"I would say there are three things that I look for: intelligence, toughness, accuracy," said Carr, who enters his 10th season leading active Big Ten coaches with 56 conference victories.

Gutierrez (pronounced Goo-TARE-s) is the only one of the three candidates with college experience.

After redshirting as a freshman two years ago, he was Navarre's seldom-used backup last season.

Gutierrez, a mobile quarterback with a solid arm, has not lost a game he started since he was a freshman playing junior varsity football in California.

"Losing is not in his vocabulary," Edwards said. "Winning is all he knows. It's in his blood."

The other QB contenders also were winners in high school.

Richard did not play at Michigan as a freshman last year, but the Indiana native is a classic, drop-back passer with his strong arm. Henne, who threw for 7,000 yards and 74 TDs in Pennsylvania, reminds Carr of Drew Henson.

"I don't think we'll lose a beat no matter who is in there," said Steve Breaston, one of Michigan's three sensational receivers.

The Wolverines will be led by two players — Edwards and Jackson — who could've been in the NFL this year, but chose to return for their senior seasons.

"They make everybody around them better," Carr said. "I think that's the mark of a truly great football player."

Offensive lineman David Baas, a two-time All-Big Ten

player, also chose to delay his dreams of playing professional football to be a fifth-year senior at Michigan. Baas and his 300-plus pound friends plan to open holes for Michigan's rotation of running backs, likely led by senior David Underwood.

Underwood impressed Carr during the offseason by losing 10 pounds, making his playing weight about 215 pounds. But unlike Perry, his predecessor, Underwood has not improved much each year. He ran for about 200 yards in his first two seasons combined, and 270 last year.

"It's hard to predict how a guy (without experience) is going to react once you get into the middle of a season," Carr said. "They don't have anything to relate it to."

Michigan has five key players to replace on defense, but its secondary might offset any problems.

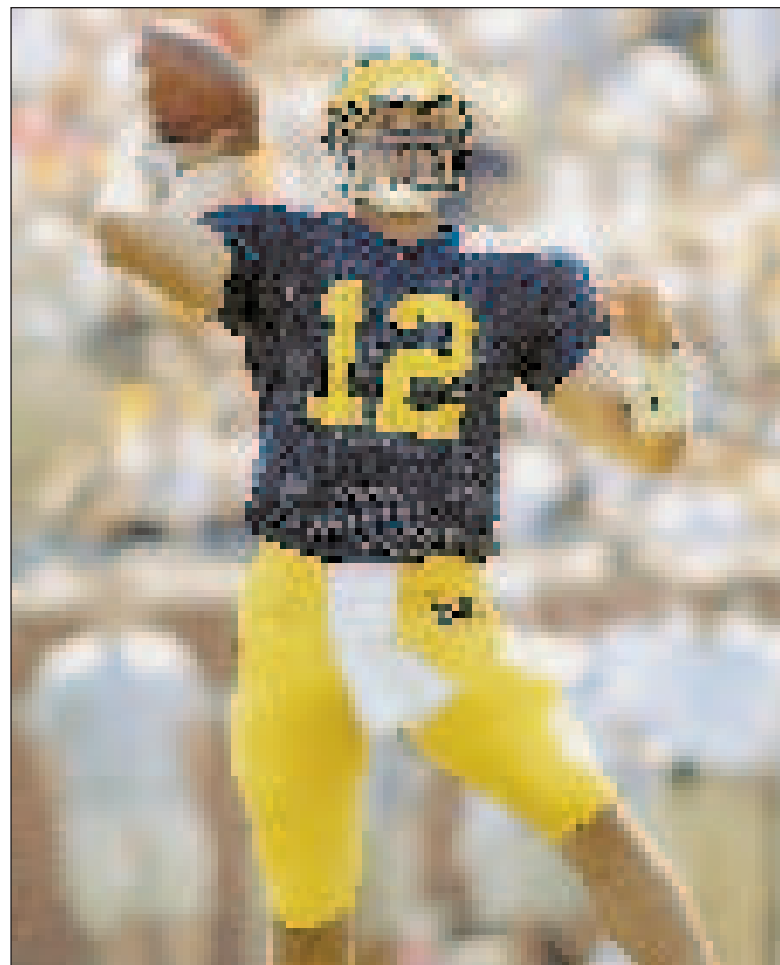
"Markus Curry and Marlin Jackson are two tough cornerbacks," Carr said. "I think Ernest Shazor has a chance to be one of the greatest safeties we've had. Yet, the key is going to be putting pressure on the quarterback."

Senior outside linebacker Pierre Woods, who made a team-high seven sacks last year, agreed.

"I want lots of sack because they feel good. It give me chills when I hear a quarterback look at me like, 'Why did you hit me like that?'" he said.

The linebackers will be led by senior Lawrence Reid, who made a team-high 82 tackles.

The kicking game should be an asset with Adam Finley and Garrett Rivas.



The Associated Press

Matt Gutierrez is the front-runner to succeed John Navarre as Michigan's starting quarterback.

2003 Stats

Returning players in all CAPS

RUSHING

Player	Att	Yards	TD
Chris Perry	338	1,674	18
D. UNDERWOOD	52	270	2
J. JACKSON	29	187	2
P. REMBERT	21	85	3

RECEIVING

Player	Rec	Yds	TD
B. EDWARDS	85	1,138	14
J. AVANT	47	772	2
Chris Perry	44	367	2
S. BREASTON	38	444	3

PASSING

Player	Att	Comp	Pct	Yds	TD	Int
John Navarre	456	270	59.2	3,331	24	10
MATT GUTIERREZ	19	13	68.4	153	1	0

DEFENSE

Player	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack	Fum	Int
LAWRENCE REID	53	29	82	1	2	0
PIERRE WOODS	46	22	68	7	0	0
ERNEST SHAZOR	40	17	57	2	0	2
Carl Diggs	37	19	56	1	0	0
MARLIN JACKSON	39	11	50	0	0	2
Jeremy LeSueur	41	7	48	1	1	2
MARKUS CURRY	39	9	48	0	1	2

2003 Results

Michigan 45, Central Michigan 7
 Michigan 50, Houston 3
 Michigan 38, Notre Dame 0
 Oregon 31, Michigan 27
 Michigan 31, Indiana 17
 Iowa 30, Michigan 27
 Michigan 38, Minnesota 35
 Michigan 56, Illinois 14
 Michigan 31, Purdue 3
 Michigan 27, Michigan State 20
 Michigan 41, Northwestern 10
 Michigan 35, Ohio State 21
 USC 28, Michigan 14*

*=Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.