



AP Photo

Michigan quarterback Chad Henne tied a school record with 25 touchdown passes.

Michigan hopes to avoid shootouts

ANN ARBOR (AP) — Michigan has enough talent to score 30 points a game, something the Wolverines did seven times last year with freshmen Chad Henne and Mike Hart at quarterback and running back.

The problem is Michigan gave up at least 37 points in three of its past four games.

That combination of explosive offense and porous defense has led some to believe the Wolverines will be a part of some high-scoring contests in 2005.

Coach Lloyd Carr hopes that is not the case.

“An old coach (Bill Parcells) told me a long time ago, when you get into shootouts, you’re probably going to win 50 percent of them,” Carr said. “And 50 percent is not what I’m interested in.”

Michigan will begin its 126th season ranked among the top teams in the nation and as the pick to win a third straight Big Ten title.

The Wolverines have to replace a school-record four All-Americans, but that hasn’t changed predictions for the winningest program in college football.

“Playing here is a double-

edged sword,” said Carr, who is entering his 11th season as coach and 26th on Michigan’s staff. “The great thing is the pressure, the stress and the expectations. That’s also the toughest thing.”

Michigan went 9-3 last year despite starting freshmen at quarterback and running back for the first time. Henne tied a school record with 25 touchdown passes and Hart led the Big Ten in rushing with 1,455 yards.

“They’re much more comfortable in terms of the football, the pressure, the stress, the expectations,” Carr said. “I think they’re going to find out as they go forward that the stress and that pressure and those expectations continue to rise.

“I have great confidence in both those kids because I think the pressure they faced a year ago is something that they handled as well as anybody could have ever expected, and there’s no reason to think that they won’t continue to handle it as they go forward.”

Henne, who said he was more overwhelmed in the opener against Miami (Ohio) than at Ohio State or against

Texas in the Rose Bowl, says he enjoys the scrutiny that comes with his high-profile role.

He dealt with it well last season as he became the first true freshman quarterback to start every game at Michigan and the first in the Big Ten to lead his team to a conference championship.

“You always want the pressure on your shoulders because that’s when you perform the best,” Henne said. “You always want to play your best, and being in those situations can only help you along the way.”

Henne and Hart have plenty of help around them on offense.

Guard Matt Lentz and tackles Adam Stenavich and Jake Long lead an offensive line that should be a strength, even without standout center David Baas. Though Braylon Edwards is catching passes for the Cleveland Browns, receivers Jason Avant and Steve Breaston and tight ends Tim Massaquoi and Tyler Ecker give Henne plenty of passing options.

“The offense will be spread more because we have to

Quarterback U

Michigan has produced the same number of starting NFL quarterbacks as Miami, which since 1988 has been widely regarded as “Quarterback U.” The Wolverines are represented this season by five QBs in the NFL — more than any other school.

(AP) — New England’s Tom Brady has been successful enough to be a two-time Super Bowl MVP, but he had to compete with Dallas’ Drew Henson for playing time when he was in Ann Arbor. Brady said his experience at Michigan prepared him mentally and physically to play in the NFL.

“I remember the 2-minute drills we used to do at Michigan. I was so nervous to go out to practice because I was competing every day. I swear to God, I would lose sleep,” Brady said. “I’d wake up and check the weather to see how windy it was going to be because I knew I was going out there and throwing. You’d learn valuable lessons about competition, and I approached every day in practice like it really was the game.”

Joining Brady and Henson in the NFL are ex-Michigan QBs John Navarre in Arizona, Todd Collins in Kansas City and Brian Griese in Tampa Bay.

• The quarterback currently throwing for the nation’s winningest college football program has a chance to be its best ever.



Chad Henne tied Grbac’s school record with 25 touchdown passes last year when he became Michigan’s first true freshman to start every game at quarterback and the first to lead a Big Ten team to a conference title.

“Our players embraced him and Chad gets most of the credit for that because of the way he handled the pressure of the job and the praise he got for doing it,” Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said. “But (quarterbacks coach) Scot Loeffler did a great job of helping him get better every day and (offensive coordinator) Terry Malone did a great job of giving him things he could handle, not overloading him.”

Henne estimates he knew less than 50 percent of Michigan’s playbook last season when he completed 60 percent of his passes, threw a TD in every game and averaged only one interception per game.

“They’d give me a play and I’d run the play,” he said. “This year, I know why we’re going to run the play and what defenses are giving us and what we’re going to try to do against it.”

Henne has players in front and around him, making it possible for him to have a sensational sophomore year after producing one of the best seasons a freshman quarterback has ever had.

2005 Michigan schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 3	Northern Illinois	3:30 p.m.
Sept. 10	Notre Dame	Noon
Sept. 17	Eastern Mich.	Noon
Sept. 24	at Wisconsin	TBA
Oct. 1	at Michigan State	TBA
Oct. 8	Minnesota (homecoming)	1 p.m.
Oct. 15	Penn State	TBA
Oct. 22	at Iowa	TBA
Oct. 29	at Northwestern	TBA
Nov. 12	Indiana	TBA
Nov. 19	Ohio State	TBA

PLEASE SEE PAGE 26