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Former Michigan receiver Braylon Edwards: Rich Rodriguez must win, or trouble

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Former Michigan football star [Braylon Edwards](#) said Wolverines coach Rich Rodriguez has to win in his third season -- or else.

"He faces a huge task," Edwards said Saturday night before his charity basketball game at [Crisler Arena](#). "Michigan, this is one of those schools, we don't accept failure. Being part of the alumni now, I can see how they think. Being a player and being alumni are two different things.

"So he has a task this year. He has to put them in the situation to win some games. There will be no excuses this year. He has to win games, and if he doesn't then he's in trouble. And that's not me. You can watch and know. That just is how the alumni feel. He has to win games and especially the you-know-what game."

Edwards, a receiver with the [New York Jets](#), last season introduced himself on televised games as being from "Lloyd Carr's University of Michigan." He said he will continue to do so.


"I didn't play for Rich Rod and it's no disrespect," Edwards said. "I played for Lloyd Carr. My father played for Bo Schembechler, so I'm a part of that regime, and that's all that was. That was no disrespect toward Rich Rod. ... That was just paying homage to my mentor, Lloyd Carr."

Last month, Michigan admitted to major NCAA violations in its [football](#) program, including violating rules that govern practices and workouts.

Edwards said he could understand the competitive pressure.

"Things happen," Edwards said. "I feel like Rich Rod was trying to get the guys ready and I feel like sometimes when you're in that atmosphere, sometimes you go over it. It's not on purpose. It's not as though you write it down to say, 'Today we're going to go over by two hours. Tomorrow we'll go over by three hours.' I feel as though you're trying to get a team ready, trying to get a team prepared to be the best in the country.

"Every year, the competition gets stiffer and stiffer as more guys say, 'You know what? I don't have to go to Michigan. I don't have to go to USC. I can go to other schools.' So the competition has gotten more stiff. So, yeah, I don't think it was on purpose."

Former U-M football players Steve Breaston and Mike Hart attended the charity game, as did other sports stars, including former NBA player [Derrick Coleman](#)  and ex-Michigan State star Jason Richardson of the Phoenix Suns.

The game raised money for the Braylon Edwards Foundation, which focuses on education in Detroit and Cleveland.

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