

# NU victory disappoints six Hoosier hitchhikers

Nebraska's 45-0 victory over Indiana University (IU) in Saturday's game must have been disappointing for the IU fans who traveled 725 miles to support their Big Red team.

But for the six IU students who raced from Bloomington, Ind., to Lincoln by hitchhiking, it was especially disheartening.

Excited after defeating Minnesota last week, some IU students from Read Residential Center decided to make the trek to Nebraska. Tuesday night they got the idea and by Thursday, Operation Touchdown was in full swing.

Nancy Weber, an IU senior, coordinated the publicity and a pep rally was held to see the two teams off Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

### 19 hours

The "Hurryin' Hitchers," Ellen Epstein, 19, John Gunn, 23, and Steve Fahnestock, 23, arrived at the finish line, 25th and O Streets at 11:20 a.m. Friday. They were met by Daily Nebraskan staff members and about 20 NU pep band members playing the IU fight song.

Officer Robert Douty from Campus

Police drove the "Hurryah Hitchers" to the Nebraska Union, where they were met by "Go Big Road," the second team.

Meredith Strohm, 23, Bill Shipton, 30, and Dale Martin, 23, were the "Go Big Roaders."

"We wouldn't have come if we didn't think we would win Operation Touchdown," Martin said. "We came in second, the others came in next to last!"

"IU is big in everything but football," McNair said.

"The point of the whole thing was to try and build up a favorable reputation for IU football," Gunn said. "That's why we did it."

Operation Touchdown also received support from IU football fans. The IU Student Foundation donated \$150 and team T-shirts were given by a Bloomington sporting goods store.

Although the hitchers were exhausted after their 19-hour trek, they managed to go to Uncle Sam's Friday night to officially challenge Nebraska students to beat their 19-hour record next year when the Huskers travel to Bloomington.



Photo by Kevin Higley


Members of the Hurryin' Hitchers, winning hitchhiking team from Indiana, are from left; John Gunn of South Bend, Ind., Ellen Epstein of Indianapolis and Steve Fahnestock of Springfield, Ohio. The team made the journey in 19 hours and challenged UNL students to beat that time next season.

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