FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Texas State 800m Champion Nicholas L. Ferguson Signs with Kansas State University Track & Field

The nation's top-ranked amateur 800m runner in the Class of 2027 chooses the Wildcats over Yale, Navy, Auburn, Georgetown and Purdue



Nicholas L. Ferguson with family and supporters at his college signing ceremony, Heights High School, Houston, Texas, Nov. 19, 2026. Courtesy of the Ferguson family.

HOUSTON, Texas – November 20, 2026 – Nicholas L. Ferguson, the reigning UIL 6A Texas State champion in the 800 meters and the top-ranked non-professional high school 800m runner in the Class of 2027, signed on November 19, 2026, to continue his academic and athletic career at Kansas State University. Ferguson, an Under Armour All-American with a personal best of 1:48.54, made the announcement at a college signing ceremony at Heights High School in Houston, surrounded by family, coaches, teammates and bandmates.

A NATIONAL-CALIBER MIDDLE-DISTANCE RUNNER

Ferguson, known to teammates as "The Flash," had a breakout 2026 season, cutting his 800m time by 15.6 seconds in one year, from 2:04.14 in 2025 to 1:48.54. His results include:

- UIL 6A Texas State Champion, 800 meters (May 16, 2026, Mike A. Myers Stadium, Austin)
- UIL Region III 6A Champion, 800 meters
- 2nd place, Under Armour Track & Field Nationals, 800 meters, in a lifetime-best 1:48.54 (May 30, 2026, IMG Academy, Bradenton, Fla.)
- Under Armour All-American
- No. 1 ranked non-professional high school 800m runner in the Class of 2027

- Additional PRs: 400m 48.23, 200m 22.42, 5K cross country 15:45

He entered Heights High as a relay runner focused on the 400 before moving up to the 800. His running career began at Frank Black Middle School under Coach Obang. He has been featured by Texas MileSplit and the Defender Network.

MORE THAN AN ATHLETE

Off the track, Ferguson carries one of the heaviest loads on campus. He is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme student with a 4.7 GPA and the Lead Drum Major of the Heights High School Marching Band. A saxophonist, he also qualified for the UIL State Solo & Ensemble Championships, and he has served in student government. He balanced meets, band performances and an IB course load, often catching up on schoolwork late at night after travel.

Ferguson drew recruiting interest from a range of top academic and athletic programs, including Yale University, the U.S. Naval Academy, Auburn University, Georgetown University, Purdue University and Kansas State University. Harvard University also reached out in the final days before his decision. Ferguson said Kansas State felt like a great fit: the university, his future teammates, the coaching staff and the program's vision all aligned with his personal and professional aspirations. He will join the Wildcats as part of the fall 2027 class.

IN THEIR WORDS

"It was a tough decision. I went over it with a lot of people. We weighed the pros and cons, we made a list," Ferguson said at the ceremony before revealing his choice. "I'll be spending my time athletically and academically at Kansas State University. Thank you to Coach Ewing and Coach Geopfert for allowing me this opportunity." Brent Ewing is K-State's assistant coach for distance and middle-distance runners, and Travis Geopfert is K-State's Director of Track and Field and Cross Country.

Ferguson credited his teammates, the Heights band and his family. "It takes a team. It really does take a team, and you guys have been with me each and every step of the way," he said. He also shared advice from his father during a stretch when he was struggling to balance athletics and academics: "Time's gonna get tough, but at the end of the day, you know you can do what you need to do. And remember, first and foremost, to give yourself value."

Heights High track coach Michael Peraza recalled that Ferguson first saw himself as a 400 runner before moving up to the 800. "He never cared about individual accolades, and he always wanted to see the team succeed," Peraza said. "There aren't many kids that can say that they're a state champion and hold a time of 1 minute and 48 seconds, which is number one in the country. You are truly one of a kind." Heights boys have won four straight district cross country championships during Ferguson's time on the team.

"Nicholas exemplifies excellence outside the classroom, but also inside the classroom," said Heights High School Principal Ian Olmstead. Stephen Dixon, Heights High athletic coordinator and head football coach, added that schools like the ones that recruited Ferguson "don't get offered to you unless you take care of business in the classroom, and he has done that."

Andrew Casler, principal of Oak Forest Elementary, where Ferguson started school, said what excites him most is not what Ferguson will do for himself, "but how he's going to use those abilities, that excellence, to

be a thoughtful, caring human being and change the lives of those around him."

QUICK FACTS

Name	Nicholas L. Ferguson
High school	Heights High School, Houston, Texas (Class of 2027)
Event	800 meters
800m PR	1:48.54 (Under Armour Nationals, May 30, 2026)
Ranking	No. 1 non-professional high school 800m runner, Class of 2027
College	Kansas State University (Big 12)
Signed	November 19, 2026
Honors	UIL 6A Texas State Champion (800m), Under Armour All-American, 2nd at Under Armour Nationals
Academics & music	IB Programme, 4.7 GPA, Lead Drum Major, UIL State Solo & Ensemble qualifier
Website	nicholaslferguson.com
Social	Instagram and YouTube: @nicholaslferguson

ABOUT NICHOLAS L. FERGUSON

Nicholas L. Ferguson is the top-ranked non-professional high school 800m runner in the Class of 2027 and a senior at Heights High School in Houston, Texas. A UIL 6A State champion and Under Armour All-American with a 1:48.54 personal best, he balances elite competition with the IB Programme and leadership as Lead Drum Major. He will compete for Kansas State University beginning in fall 2027. Results, video and updates are at nicholaslferguson.com.

> **Media Contact**
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> Photos and interview requests are available on request. All media, sponsorship and NIL inquiries go through this contact. Media kit: nicholaslferguson.com/press/media-kit/

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