

SPORTS

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Rays promote ex-Viking Lowe

Goes 1-4 with double and run
in debut at Kansas City

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Rays promoted first baseman Nate Lowe from Triple-A Durham before their series opener against the Royals, giving one of the former St. Johns River State College star a shot Monday night amid a wave of injuries.

Lowe was batting fifth as the designated hitter in his big league debut, going 1-4 with double and a run in an 8-5 victory. Rays manager Kevin Cash said the 23-year-old slugger would likely be at first base on Tuesday night.

“There was a lot to like with what he did last year. He was really, really impressive at three levels,” Cash said. “He can hit the ball a long, but he can also hit well.”

Lowe was the Rays’ minor league player of the year last sea-



Daily News file

Nathaniel Lowe celebrates a home run for SJR State in 2015.

son, hitting a combined .330 with 27 homers and 102 RBI at Class A Charlotte, Double-A Montgomery and Durham. He scorched spring training and was hitting .300 with three homers and 21 RBI for Durham this season.

Lowe was the state’s junior college player of the year as the Vikings’ first baseman in 2015.

The AL East-leading Rays,

who began the night with the best record in the majors, promoted Lowe in part because infielder Joey Wendle is out with a fractured right wrist and outfielder Austin Meadows is sidelined by a sprained right thumb. Both of them are left-handed hitters, and their injuries leave a significant void in a lineup that tends to fluctuate based on matchups.