

# SNAPPERS, A'S EXTEND PACT THROUGH 2020

September 24, 2018 at 10:52 am | By [Sports \(mailto:sports@beloitdailynews.com\)](mailto:sports@beloitdailynews.com) and Josh Flickinger

BELOIT - As the Beloit Snappers continue to work their way towards a deal for a new downtown ballpark, they were able to knock one item off their offseason agenda Friday afternoon.

The Snappers announced their union with the Oakland Athletics will continue through at least the 2020 season.

The two organizations signed a new two-year player development contract Friday which guarantees the A's will supply Beloit players for two years.

Snappers president Dennis Conerton said the team was excited to extend the partnership.

"This was our number one choice that we had talked about," Conerton said. "We have a very good relationship with the A's. We know each other very well and that's a big plus. This is what we expected to happen, and everything went smoothly. We went through the process of talking to some other clubs in case things with the A's went a different directions, but this is what we were hoping would happen."

The Snappers and A's have been partnered for the past six seasons. By the time the newly signed PDC runs out, it will mark an eight-year partnership, tying the amount of time the Snappers spent with the Minnesota Twins (2004-2012). The Snappers spent the first 23 years paired up with the Milwaukee Brewers.

"I think the two organizations have a lot in common," Conerton said. "We are both small markets that have to do the best we can with what we've got. We're both in the fight to get a new stadium. And I think in that way, we work well together. They are a great organization to work with, just like the Twins were."

Conerton said the team's future, which hopefully includes a new stadium that has been discussed and debated for several years, was perhaps a reason the A's signed back with the team.

"They said they were encouraged about the progress we've made towards a new ballpark," Conerton said. "I think that certainly could have played a factor in it. At the end of the conversation I had with their director of minor league operations (Zak Bosch), he mentioned that by the end of this, maybe they'd have a new ballpark to look forward to here."

The Snappers qualified for the Midwest League playoffs for the first time since 2013 this summer, which ended a string of four consecutive non-competitive seasons.

Conerton said he's hoping to have an update on the progress of a potential new ballpark in January.