



RISING STAR

22-year old left-arm spinner Linsey Smith was one of the success stories of the inaugural Kia Super League. Called into the Southern Vipers squad as an injury replacement, she took 4 for 10 in her second game and overall contributed eight wickets to the Vipers' title success.

Playing in the Kia Super League was an amazing opportunity and one that I wanted to take with both hands. I was disappointed not to be in the Southern Vipers' original squad so when I did get a chance because of injury, I wanted to prove a point. I was picked to play against Lancashire Thunder and performed well so was added to the squad for the rest of the tournament.

Then we played Yorkshire Diamonds at home which was an amazing experience - it was the biggest crowd I'd ever played in front of. There must have been about 2,000 people at the Ageas Bowl.

I have to say I was a bit nervous and when we walked out on to the pitch it was a bit overwhelming. Beforehand I hadn't really thought about the crowd, only how I wanted to bowl. I had to pinch myself a bit.

Everything went by in a bit of a blur but it was an amazing day. Thankfully I got off to a good start and took a wicket with my second ball. That got me really pumped and then in my third over I got a caught and bowled to dismiss Australia's Alex Blackwell. The ball came back pretty quick and I didn't have to time to think about it. I just put my hands there - that got the adrenaline going!

Reaching Finals Day was really exciting. We were already through to the final so we could watch the play-off match and take everything in.

For the Kia Super League to get such big crowds in its first year shows just how much the women's game is moving forward. We'll have live television coverage in the second season from Sky Sports too which demonstrates what a success the competition has been.

I learned so much and being captained by Charlotte Edwards was an unforgettable experience. I've only been a spin bowler for two seasons. I was a seam bowler for most of my career since taking up the game when I was about 11. My dad encouraged me to start and I've played a lot of boys' and men's cricket at Aston Rowant CC in Oxfordshire.

As a kid I dreamed of putting on an England shirt. To be getting closer to that by winning a place in England Women's Senior Academy squad for the winter was amazing.