



## 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.