



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **King's XI Call Up Kulasekera**

**Durban, South Africa, 29 April 2009** - The King's XI Punjab have called up Sri Lankan all-rounder Nuwan Kulasekera to replace Shaun Marsh in their squad for the DLF IPL in South Africa. Marsh will fly home from Australia's tour of the United Arab Emirates on Friday morning after scans confirmed a recurrence of a hamstring injury.

Kulasekera is currently the number one ranked bowler in the ICC World Rankings for One Day Internationals. The 26-year-old medium pacer has been rewarded for consistency over the past 12 months. After a period out of the national team Kulasekera returned in April 2008. Since then he has taken 47 wickets at 20.97 in 29 matches, with a strike-rate of 28.00 and an economy rate of 4.45.

Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara, who is also a key member of the Kings XI Punjab, said recently: "Nuwan fully deserves his number one ranking after an outstanding year for us. Since cementing his place in the side he has been extremely consistent and reliable for us, taking wickets with the new ball and keeping things tight."

But Kulasekera realises that he needs to contribute with the bat, because the man he is replacing for the Kings XI had such an outstanding IPL season in 2008. Marsh finished the tournament as the highest run scorer with an average of 68.44 and a strike rate of 139.68 in 11 innings. His innings' included a century and five half- centuries.

"I am working really hard on my batting", said Kulasekera. "My immediate target is pushing my ODI average over 25 by giving the team consistent runs. Obviously Shaun batted brilliantly last year and I feel sorry for him having to pull out, but I can't wait to get started in the IPL and I look forward to making some good contributions to the King's XI."

Marsh re-injured his left hamstring when he dived to make a sharp single while batting in Wednesday night's opening one-day loss against Pakistan in Dubai. It was his first game in national colours since badly tearing the same muscle fielding against New Zealand at the WACA on February 1st.

### **About Kings XI Punjab**

Kings XI Punjab is part of the eight competing teams promoted by the DLF Indian Premier League. It is held and promoted by a consortium which includes, Industrialists Mohit Burman, Karan Paul, Ness Wadia and leading Indian actor Preity Zinta. The team is led by Yuvraj Singh, who is also the icon player & captain. At the helm is Coach Tom Moody. The



team is a heady mix of leading national and international players like Brett Lee, James Hopes, Shaun Marsh, Luke Pomersbach, Simon Katich, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Burt Cockley, Ravi Bopara, Yuvraj Singh, Irfan Pathan, Sreesanth, R Powar, V.R.V. Singh, P. Chawla, Karan Goel, Uday Kaul, Wilkin Mota, Ajitesh Argal, Tanmay Srivastava, Sunny Sohal, Ryan Ninan, Ravikant Shukla, Ranadeb Bose, Vikramjeet Malik, Taruwar Kohli and Amanpreet Singh.

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Official Team Merchandise available on <http://kxip.in/page/merchandise>"

### **KINGS XI PUNJAB**

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