

Australian Trent Robinson has been charged with leading Catalans into the future, joining the club as head coach next season.

INTO THE FIRE

Robinson, who has previous experience in France with Toulouse Olympique, joins the club after finishing his duties with Australian based NRL Club, the Sydney Roosters.

First on Robinson's list of things to do is to develop a strong structure around the coaching department and at training, building NRL methods into the Super League team.

Having played rugby league with the Sydney Roosters, Wests Tigers and Parramatta Eels over a number of years, Robinson took up an opportunity in Toulouse to play for Olympique for three seasons. He was then appointed head coach, a role which he enjoyed before heading back to the NRL under Brian Smith.

"An opportunity came up at the Newcastle Knights in 2007 as Assistant Coach under Brian Smith and it

was a great opportunity for me to really develop my coaching skills under someone who has so much experience and success," said Robinson of his move back to Australia.

Having completed a sports science degree in 1999, Robinson was able to apply these skills with the NRL club before joining the Sydney Roosters in 2010. That same year, the Roosters also installed a High Performance Unit charged with ensuring the players are at their peak when it comes to game day.

These are the learnings he will take with him to Catalans in order to make them a competitive force in the Super League.

"I will be appointing a Strength and Conditioning coach once I arrive to help work on the players speed and power, adding the sports science element to the coaching mix," said Robinson.

"I am so proud to be a head coach in the Super League, coach of the only French Super League club."

"My other major priority is to get to know the players, their styles and personalities, to better enhance the team dynamic.

"I have been watching the games on TV but getting to know what motivates the players is going to be my first big task. Having Laurent (Catalans Assistant Coach) there for five years will help that process, he knows these players inside out."

Robinson also expects French league star Gerome Gussel to join the coaching staff, should he decide to hang up the footy boots.

He is genuinely excited about the upcoming season and looking forward to settling back into French life.

"I am so proud to be a head coach in the Super League, coach of the only French Super League club," he said.

"I am passionate about France, its people and its culture, and I want to be a part of building rugby league within the country." ▶



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