to move Ben Creagh from the back row to
of the ‘big three’ and into the fishbowl that
Widdop has come to step out of the shadows

DRAGONS

coming in to the peak of his powers.
field dramas behind him he should be
Dragons side. The 23-year- old bulked up a

The x-factor:

in 2012 and 14th in 2013, Red V fans will be
performances since the departure of Wayne
expectation from one of the NRL’s largest
Maguire is under is the weight of

The coach:

replace Mitchell Pearce as the Blues
number seven.

The coach: The only pressure Michael
Maguire is under is the weight of

OUR VIEW

Strengths:

Strengths: Incredible talent right across
the park from Inglis through to Reynolds and on to the four Burgess brothers.
Weaknesses: The only weakness the
Bunnies showed last year was to buckle
under pressure in the finals.
Prediction: 2nd. Excellent pre- season trial
form has the Rabbitohs fired up for a good start to the season.
The DETAILS

Key player: Big season coming up for
Souths’ halfback Adam Reynolds. A
standout season would see Reynolds
replace Mitchell Pearce as the Blues


GAINS: Joel Reddy (Wests Tigers), Joe
Picker (Raiders), Chris Grevsmuhl
(Cowboys), Kirisome Auva’a (Storm),
Lote Tuqiri (Leinster, Irish rugby union).

LOSSES: Nathan Peats (Eels), Roy Asotasi
(Warren Worthington), Matt King (retired),
Michael Crocketer (retired), Andrew
Everingham (Japanese rugby), Justin Hunt
(Eels), Dylan Farrell (Dragons), Josh Starling
(Sea Eagles), Jeff Lima (Catalans Dragons).

OUR VIEW

Strengths: With coach Steve Price looking
for his head again. The only pressure Michael
Porter last season but another poor start and it
will not take long for the critics to be calling
for his head again.

The x-factor: In addition to Brooks, the
Tigers boast some of the finest emerging
talent in the NRL. There’s fullback James
Tedesco and his glorious Nines and World
Cup campaign; the aerial prowess of David
Taupau, Curtis Sironen and Jack Buchanan.

THE DETAILS

Key player: Former Storm player Gareth
Widdop has come to step out of the shadows
of the ‘big three’ and into the fishbowl that
he should be coming in to the peak of his powers.

GAINS: Remi Casty (Catalan Dragons),
Jackson Hastings (Dragons), Jonathon
Reubi (Raiders), Sin Siso Lilaukeiho (Warriors), Heath L’Estrange (Bradford),
Curtis Naughton (Bradford), Kem Seru
(Dragons).

LOSSES: Josh Aloiai (Dragons), Martin
Kennedy (Broncos), Adam Henry (Bradford
Bulls), Kenare Wells (Burleigh Bears), John
Asiata (Cowboys), Thiurara Arona (Sharks),
Michael Oldfield (Catalans Dragons), Luke
O’Donnell (retired).

OUR VIEW

Strengths: The Dragons have one of the
NRL’s biggest back stocks in the
season. The pressure of repeating
last year’s glory could be their only hurdle.
Weaknesses: There are still vulnerabilities in
the Tigers forward pack if they suffer a couple
of injuries, and inexperience is an issue.
Prediction: 16th. It will be a long year for
coach Mick Potter with the spoon waiting.

THE DETAILS

Key player: Luke Brooks. Dubbed the next
Andrew Johns, the rookie No. 7 isn’t
expected to take long to adjust to the big
time. A rookie hasn’t been met with so
much anticipation and expectation ahead of
a season since Brad Fittler debuted as a 17-
year-old.

The coach: The knives came out early and
often for the patient Michael Potter last
year. Potter survived the death knell late in
the season but another poor start and it
will not take long for the critics to be calling
for his head again.

The x-factor: In addition to Brooks, the
Roosters boast some of the finest emerging
talent in the NRL. There’s fullback James
Tedesco and his glorious Nines and World
Cup campaign; the aerial prowess of David
Taupau, Curtis Sironen and Jack Buchanan.