Hatton curses his way into British Open contention

BY STEVE DOUGLAS ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — He curses out loud, he slams ing? his clubs, he castigates himself — and his ball.

same hole.

Tyrrell Hatton, a combustible English golfer, the quality of his game.

Royal Portrush, he's making another run at a ground that it snapped major championship.

Hatton shot 2-under 69 in the second round of the British Open on Friday and, on 5-under par, was three strokes off the clubhouse lead held by Brian Harman.

It comes just a few weeks after he was tied for the lead on Sunday it will happen. at the U.S. Open when teeing off on the 71st hole, only for a bad antics can be box-ofbreak to derail his challenge.

behavior doesn't do him tention. too much harm.

completely gone," Hat-I'm at."

screamed at himself and pointed at the slopes grand old layout off the North Atlantic.

fairway glaring at his change.

"I'm not going to change is the result

change," Hatton said. "It's just how I am, how I play.

So, he isn't for chang-

"I'm 33," Hatton replied, smiling. "I think All sometimes on the that ship has sailed, to

be honest." Hatton can go too far. In November, he was can divide opinion with fined by the European his on-course conduct tour and rebuked by a but few can argue about TV commentator after he cursed loudly after And this week at shots and pressed his iron so hard into the at the World Tour Championship in Dubai.

"It's time for change, I'm afraid," Ewen Murray, a commentator on British broadcaster Sky Sports, said. "That's a terrible influence on the next generation.'

This doesn't look like

Hatton's chuntering and general on-course fice viewing at times, especially when tourna-Maybe, then, his ments are at their most seemingly erratic tense and he's in con-

"I've always said, as "Although from the long as it's not affecting outside it looks like I'm my playing partners, he said. "Sure, there's ton said, "in my own been times I've probamind I still know where bly gone too far and you comment on a putt Like at the par-4 when they're putting on 14th hole Friday when the same line and then he missed the green it maybe affects where with a lob wedge. He they're hitting their putt, stuff like that.

"I think that's part of around the green of this what you learn as you get more experience, so I do try and avoid that Like on the par-4 kind of thing. But yeah, 18th hole when he hit a as long as I'm not affectdrive down the middle, ing the other guys, only to set off down the then I'm not going to

What he hopes will



Francisco Seco | AP Photo

Tyrrell Hatton of England chips onto the 7th green during the second round of the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland on Friday.

compared to last month's U.S. Open. In a five-way tie for the lead at Oakmont and in with a shout of his first major title, Hatton hit what he thought was a good drive to the right only for the ball to settle in knotty rough on a downslope above a greenside bunker. He made bogey and wound up tying for fourth. four back of winner J.J.

"I know it wasn't the ending of how I'd like it to have played out, but how I dealt with everything there and even out on the golf course with the most pressure, I still feel like I hit some really good golf shots,' Hatton said.

"I'd love to have another chance to win."



Tyrrell Hatton of England gestures after putting on the 10th green during the first round of the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland on Thursday.

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some injury treatment

Ionescu's advice: Take full advantage of the unexpected oppor-

"I went through something similar in my career," Ionescu said. "My first year, I didn't play due to injury and then second year, I had like three to four soft tissue injuries. You look back and it's a blessing in disguise because you're able to learn and grow and understand it's all part of your journey, continue to figure out what you need in a have seen how their even if it's a disappointpro career."

much down time Saturday, either.

shootaround, a 15-minute interview session

stage inside Gainbridge Fieldhouse before test- form, like you'll definiteing her coaching skills. ly see the competitive And that may not be all.

tunate about Caitlin, what it deserves from but she's going to still a break standpoint. I have a great impact on think this weekend will this team," said Liberty still be about what her "I will give the coaching have brought to our hat to her as much as league." she wants, to be quite honest. We're going to play around with it a lit- on the court, Clark will tle bit. It'll be fun."

Clark never missed a game in college or her first pro season because of injury but already has with three muscle inju-

teammate has respond-Clark won't have ed in all 10 and expect nothing different this time, a contest that Clark told GMA. "Obvi-There's a morning doesn't count in the standings.

"Caitlin will still be with reporters and then Caitlin, trust me guys," she'll have to navigate Mitchell said, drawing time."

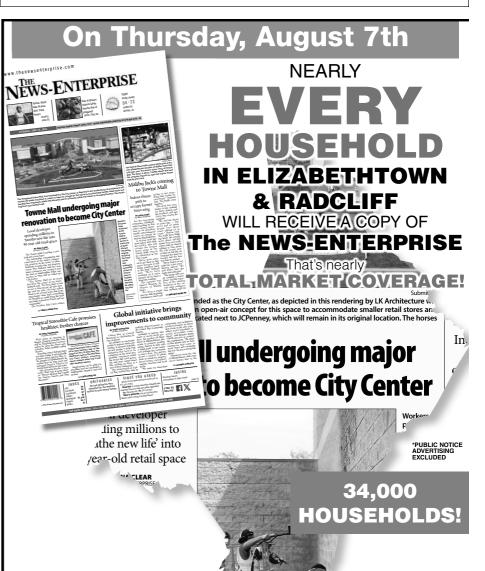
the newly constructed laughter. "She's going to be in a coaching uninature. But I think for "Obviously, unfor- her, her body deserves coach Sandy Brondello.and other individuals

> So while the league's biggest stars compete return to her role as promoter.

It's a role she must embrace if she hopes to play Tuesday when the missed 10 this season regular season resumes with a home game against the defending Boston and Mitchell champion Liberty ment for the women's basketball fans.

> "I am feeling good," ously, a lot of this cheers me up. It's fun to see everybody out here having such a good

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