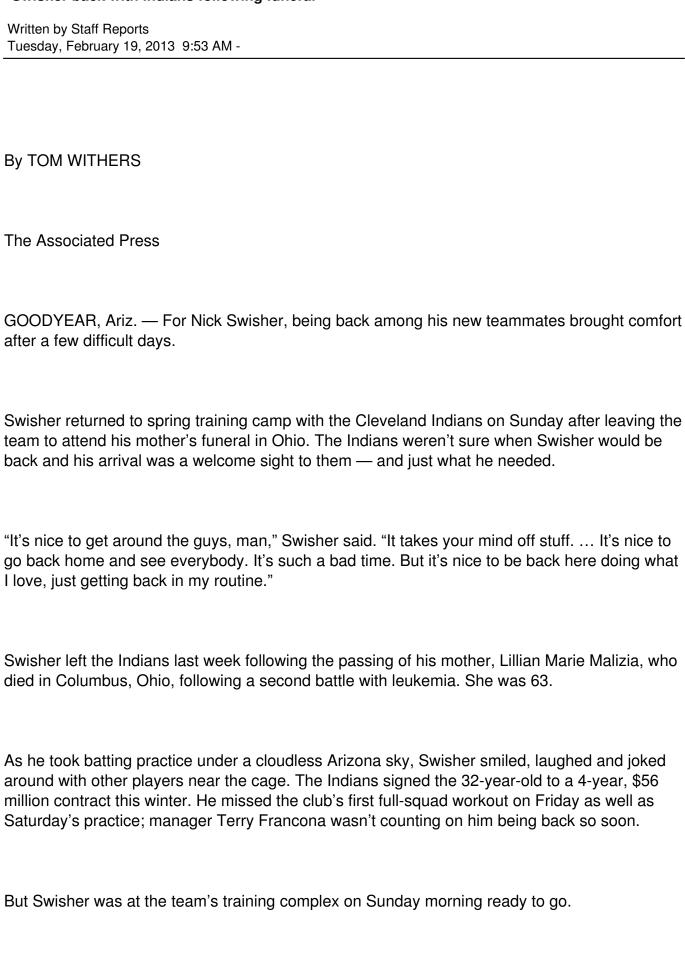
Swisher back with Indians following funeral



"I didn't even want to call to check and see when he was coming back," Francona said. "We

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were trying to prepare for the day. I told (hitting coach Ty Van Burkleo), 'If he's here, he's here. If he's not, he's not.' You've got to take care of what you've got to take care of. But there's a little different vibe when he's around and I mean that in a really positive way."

Swisher batted .272 with 24 homers and 93 RBIs for the Yankees last season. He played mostly in the outfield for New York but he'll be Cleveland's primary first baseman. The Indians signed free agent Michael Bourn last week to a 4-year, \$48 million contract and will play him in center field with Drew Stubbs in right and Michael Brantley in left.

Swisher didn't offer many details about his mother's passing and added he was anxious to return to some sense of normalcy.

"The last thing I want to do is bring any more attention to this situation that what has to be," he said. "It was nice. It was good to go home. The service was beautiful. We've just got to move on. We've got to do our grieving and just move on."

Notes: Francona was hoping to speak with Team USA manager Joe Torre and Team USA pitching coach Greg Maddux about possibly getting relievers Chris Perez and Vinnie Pestano to pitch during a spring training game during their first week of training for the World Baseball Classic. ... Francona loves to get on the field during workouts. On Friday, he caught — he's a left-hander — during a drill with infielders and pitchers. On Sunday, he pitched some batting practice. PUBLIC