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LATE CITY FINAL

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Central Pk. jogger moves feet & hearts

By MICHAEL WHITE

Central Park Jogger Trish Meili yesterday joined almost 1,500 people on a rain-soaked race through the park — running past the spot where she was once brutally raped and left for dead.

The five-mile run was sponsored by Meili, who was a 29-year-old investment banker when she was attacked in 1989 in a case that shocked the nation.

Meili, now 44, moved back to New York City six years ago. She often visits the site of the horrifying attack, of which she has no recollection.

It gives her strength.

“I have returned to the spot many times. To me, it is a symbol of how far I have come, and it feels so good to say, ‘Look at what



TRISH MEILI
Offers victims strength.

I am doing now,’” Meili said.

After running, Meili greeted participants at the finish line, dripping wet and with a pen in hand, ready to sign copies of her book, “I am the Central Park Jogger: A Story of

Hope and Possibility.”

But many people were happy to just shake her hand — and thank her.

“I think it’s great that she is out here and that she shared her story,” said second-place finisher Jill Walter, 27. “I don’t think I would be strong enough to do that.”

Meili only recently revealed her identity.

She said that through her, many women have found the strength to speak out about their own rape stories.

“It is about breaking the silence that surrounds sexual assault,” Meili said.

“The support I received was often from total strangers. It made me feel that I wasn’t alone, and that I was a survivor, not a victim,” she said.