



**BRAVE RETURN:** Trisha Meili races yesterday on the 102nd Street Transverse — past the spot where she was raped and left for dead in '89. Chad Rachman

## Central Pk. jogger runs again

By ANGELINA CAPIELLO

The former investment banker whose brutal beating and rape in Central Park traumatized the city 14 years ago jogged past the scene of the horrific attack yesterday, taking second place in a race.

The five-mile run-walk Hope and Possibility charity event took its name from the title of Trisha Meili's recently published book about her experience.

Participants in the race, sponsored by the Achilles Track club, included some 1,000 disabled and non-disabled people.

"I felt so good about doing this," said Meili, 42, who finished in 48 minutes, 21 seconds, accompanied by an off-duty detective who acted as her bodyguard.

When she reached the place where she was attacked, Meili, who still walks a bit unsteadily, said, "I knew where I was ... It gave me a rush at that moment to pick up a little bit."

Elizabeth Salick, 26, a Columbia student who lost her leg to cancer and runs on an artificial one, said, "I think that people focus too often on

trauma as something you can't get over. But there's so much to be learned from it, and your life can be rebuilt in a way that is really enriched."

Meili later signed copies of her book, "I am the Central Park Jogger: A Story of Hope and Possibility."

"There's no hierarchy in suffering," Meili said. "Everyone has their own separate issues, but there's a common bond that we share."

The five youths convicted of attacking her were recently cleared by a judge.