



London

Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov admitted he had felt "pretty Grigor Dimitrov nervous" after seeing off Austrian Dominic Thiem in three dramatic sets on his ATP Finals debut.

Sixth seed Dimitrov beat fourth seed Thiem 6-3 5-7 7-5 in the opening round-robin match in the Pete Sampras Group.

Dimitrov failed to serve out the match at the first time of asking, only for Thiem to hand him a second opportunity with two double faults in a row. Rafael Nadal takes on David Goffin in the second singles match.

Roger Federer and Alexander

Zverev won the opening matches in the Boris Becker Group on Sunday.

The pair will meet in today's second singles match, after Marin Cilic plays Jack Sock.

Dimitrov, 26, just about held his nerve to win a gripping battle of the one-handed backhands against Thiem, who is playing in the Finals for the second year running.

It was the Bulgarian who had the edge for most of the contest, breaking serve once to win the first set and not facing a break point until the end of the second.

However, Thiem took his chance in the 12th game to draw level and force a third set, before breaking back

when Dimitrov served for the match at 5-4 in the decider.

Dimitrov missed a chance to earn two match points when he failed to challenge a ball that had missed the baseline, but the former junior Wimbledon champion recovered his poise to break for a third time in game 11, eventually converting his third match point after two hours and 19 minutes.

"I'm not going to lie - I was pretty nervous, my first match out here," said Dimitrov.

"I'm just very grateful to win that match, especially in that manner. It's never easy to come out here and play for the first time." (BBC)



Pebastian Vettel says he was not Worried Lewis Hamilton would catch him at the Brazilian Grand

The Ferrari driver started second on the grid at the Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace on Sunday.

But he quickly moved past Valtteri Bottas into pole and managed to hold out for his fifth win of the Formula One season.

Hamilton, meanwhile, ended the race in fourth having begun it from the pit-lane and adopting an alternate pit-stop stategy.

Hamilton's leap from last threatened to put pressure on those on course for a place on the podium, including Vettel.

Vettel says he was unconcerned by

the 2017 F1 champion's dart through

the chasing pack though.
"Not really," explained Vettel after being asked if he though Hamilton would cause him a problem in Sao

"Obviously I saw him pitting just in front of me [after running a long first stint] so he had to make up that pit stop but it's not the first time this year we have seen a mirrored strategy has some advantages.

"It's not very attractive if you're starting at the front but it can be very attractive when you're out of position which he was. So you obviously have an advantage.

"The track ramped in the end and the supersoft was clearly the faster tyre, but overall it's fair to say Lewis was very quick. (express.co.uk)

Federer feels Murray is making good progress



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Roger Federer says he was surprised how well Andy Murray played during their charity match last week as the Scot continues his recovery from a hip injury.

Murray faces a race against time to find both fitness and form before the Australian Open in January, having not managed a competitive outing since Wimbledon in July.

Federer, however, reported positively from his exhibition match with Murray in Glasgow when the pair played out three light-hearted

sets.
"I was actually happy how he was playing," Federer said. "Definitely he can move better, he can serve better. We know all these things.

"But for a start, I think it was actually quite encouraging and actually okay.

"He still has a lot of time before Australia comes around but only he knows at what level he wants to return to competition.

"But I thought he was actually pretty good. I didn't expect him to be this good yet." (skysports)