

ATP Finals

Grigor Dimitrov



Sao Paulo

Sebastian Vettel says he was not worried Lewis Hamilton would catch him at the Brazilian Grand Prix.

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 strategy.

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 thought Hamilton would cause him a problem in Sao Paulo.

"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



Roger Federer (file pic)

London

Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov admitted he had felt "pretty 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*)

'Nervous' Dimitrov edges past Thiem