

Beat: Sports

## 2015 Brazilian Grand Prix

### Sao Paulo

Sao Paulo, 15.11.2015, 21:41 Time

**USPA NEWS** - Nico and Lewis bring home a Brazilian Grand Prix double after intense battle at Interlagos. Nico claimed his second consecutive Brazilian Grand Prix victory "" the 13th win and 40th podium finish of his Formula One career to date.

Nico Rosberg -

Wow "" another great win in front of another great crowd! I'm so happy with that one "" especially at this great circuit with all this history, which makes it extra fun. It was a perfect weekend for me. I was able to control the race the whole time and won with a comfortable margin to Lewis in the end. The team made a good decision to switch to a three-stop race as we saw that Lewis' tyres went off very quickly.

I look forward now to Abu Dhabi where I'll be pushing to end the season on a high. It's good to have secured P2 in the Championship in front of Sebastian today "" but that's never really been my ambition. I want to be first, so I need to raise my game as this year it wasn't high enough. I want to remember at this moment also that we have to put our sport in a different perspective after the incident in Paris. My thoughts are very much still with the family and friends of the people involved.

Lewis Hamilton -

I felt good out there today. I was pushing like crazy and genuinely had nothing left. I really love this track but it's so difficult to overtake. I was all over Nico but couldn't get past as the DRS Zone sadly just wasn't long enough. It would be great to do something different strategy-wise once in a while to mix it up "" but as drivers we rely on the team. They do so many simulations that they know what's best.

The three-stop strategy was slower but the tyres wouldn't have lasted, so it was the right decision. At the end of the day, Nico drove a fantastic race and he's done a great job in qualifying recently too. Since Singapore the car has changed a bit which seems to have swung it towards him "" but I just need to get my head down, work out why that is and get back on top of it for the final race. "It has been fantastic being here in Brazil with these amazing fans. There is a lot of love in their hearts. Thank you to the organizers for a great event and see you next year!

Toto Wolff, Head of Mercedes-Benz Motorsport -

A fantastic 1-2 finish for the team this afternoon and a great feeling to see Nico secure P2 in the Championship with this win. He put in a faultless performance this weekend with a strong pole position lap and then a beautiful drive today. For Lewis, running P2 was always going to be difficult at this track. As soon as you get close to the car in front, you lose downforce and the tyres start dropping off. When that happened in the second stint he asked about an alternative strategy.

But the only option was to convert to three stops which was ten seconds slower in terms of overall race time and would have put his second place at risk to Vettel. Then, the situation changed in our favour when Vettel converted to a three-stop strategy, which allowed us to do the same and control any threat from behind to the end of the race. The boys were pushing flat out to the finish but Nico was able to manage the gap to the end to take a well-deserved win. We're looking forward to seeing this season's final installment of the battle between Lewis and Nico in two weeks' time in Abu Dhabi.

Paddy Lowe, Executive Director (Technical) -

Congratulations to Nico who delivered a perfect weekend here in Brazil. He won the race through a great qualifying lap yesterday and consolidated that with a tremendously controlled drive today. Unfortunately for Lewis, he couldn't counter that and spent the afternoon chasing hard "" unable to quite get close enough to try and overtake Nico on track.

To us, it seemed a very exciting race as both drivers fought over fractions of a second lap after lap, putting each other under immense and sustained pressure. We originally planned to do a two-stop strategy but eventually converted to a three-stop strategy to shadow Sebastian in third place, even though the three-stopper was about 10 seconds slower overall. But with the relatively slender margin we

had to the Ferrari, it was much safer to mimic his stops. There was a point in the second stint when Lewis asked if anything could be done about a different strategy, but the only alternative at that point was the slower three-stopper, with others looking like they were two-stopping, and we didn't want to risk handing second place to Ferrari.

Our policy is to let our drivers race and also to allow them to explore viable alternative strategies, as we have shown in the past "" but we don't let them pursue a bad alternative strategy at any cost. Needless to say, it's fantastic to take a 15th race win and 11th one-two finish of the season; and it was just as satisfying to see Jimmy on the podium for his 50th birthday. He's part of the fabric of our team and of the paddock as a whole, and it was nice to be able to recognise him with a visit to the rostrum.

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-6348/2015-brazilian-grand-prix.html>

**Editorial office and responsibility:**

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Daren Frankish - Daimler AG.

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