For John Suchenski, STHM ’04, a member of ESPN’s programming and acquisitions team since 2008, by-the-minute adjustments and surging and falling storylines are just another day at the office, whether he’s at ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., on location in New York or halfway across the world at the Australian Open Tennis Championships.

“To be a part of some of the greatest events of the world—I’ve been to Paris a few times for the French Open; I took batting practice the day before the Home Run Derby—it’s rewarding,” Suchenski said. “It’s exciting and fun to be a part of world-class events and to be involved in decisions that impact the content millions of viewers are watching on our platforms.”

THE ROAD TO ESPN

Suchenski grew up in Southington, Conn., just a town away from ESPN’s Bristol headquarters, and always wanted to work at the network. At the end of his sophomore year at Temple, where he started as an architecture major before switching to sport and recreation management, Suchenski “went through as many people as I could” to land an internship at the Worldwide Leader in Sports. After completing his summer internship at ESPN’s programming department, he stayed in touch with his internship manager.

Postgraduation, Suchenski joined the Hartford Wolf Pack minor-league hockey team in marketing and sales. When he wanted to shift his professional focus from team marketing and sales to sports media and television, he contacted his former colleagues at ESPN, which had an entry-level position available as a programming coordinator working on tennis and baseball, including the major leagues and the Little League Baseball World Series.

Three years after joining the network, he was promoted to associate manager and added bowling coverage, ESPN sports programming on sister network ABC and golf to his work portfolio. In August 2013, he was promoted to manager of programming and acquisitions.

Tennis coverage, which is now Suchenski’s primary area of responsibility, is perhaps also one of the toughest to program. It’s international—and therefore subject to time delays, depending on the venue—and it’s not a timed sport, so programming can run well past, or short, of projections.

In addition to programming major events, Suchenski is also part of the ESPN team that acquires the rights to air them. For example, ESPN