Drake has huge night at Billboard Awards

Drake performs "Wanted in the Streets." (Seth Wenig/Invision/Associated Press)

Drake had the West Coast in its sights Wednesday night. At the 61st annual Grammy Awards, the Canadian rapper swept every major award category, including top solo artist, top rap album, top rap song and top rap performance, for a triumph over pop superstar Beyoncé, who was shut out.

Drake also tied hip-hop legend Jay-Z with his 14th Grammy win, matching him for most wins ever by a hip-hop artist. It was the first of six wins announced in the rap field.

The show took place in Los Angeles two months after the release of Drake’s album "Scorpion," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts.

"Drake has carved an indelible name in this industry," said Sean "Diddy" Combs, who presented Drake with the top male hip-hop/rap honor. "You’re a game changer." Drake thanked his family and friends, including his grandmother, who raised him. He also said he was honored to be included in music history along with legends like Nas, Eminem, Tupac and Biggie.

Drake isn’t the first artist to sit atop the Billboard charts for the entire year. But he is the first to do so since 2004, when R&B singer Usher did it with the now-defunct label J Records. Drake’s album "Scorpion" spent 32 weeks atop the chart, according to The Billboard 200 sales chart.

Drake and Beyoncé have been the subject of conspiracy theories about a possible collaboration. They met at the surprise Grammy party hosted by Beyoncé at the home of her father Mathew Knowles, who is now her manager. They also spent time together at the Serena Williams Pippa Middleton wedding in May.

"The love row is over," said Matthew Geller, an entertainment attorney in California. "Many people think there is a romantic relationship between them." Geller added that if Drake and Beyoncé were to become a couple, it would be a"bulletproof" move.